Tuesday, May 15, 2012 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 37 / No. 156 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ DN BREAKING to 4407 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED [illegible] VIEWS

HOSTILE WITNESS Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales and lead defense counsel Serafin Cuevas face off during the resumption of the impeachment trial at the Senate on Monday

CJ keeping $12M in 5 banks–Ombudsman

AMLC unlocks Corona foreign currency accounts

By Cathy Yamsuan and Christian V. Esguerra

CHIEF JUSTICE Renato Corona kept more than $12 million in "fresh deposits" in five banks where he maintained 82 dollar accounts between April 2003 and early this year, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales yesterday testified at the Senate impeachment trial of Corona.

Morales said fresh deposits referred to deposits that did not move. "They remained in the particular accounts," she said.

Corona, whom the Office of the Ombudsman is investigating on his alleged unexplained wealth, has vehemently denied holding at least $10 million to bank deposits.

The Chief Justice declared a net worth of P22.9 million in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth for 2010.

With the assistance of the Commission on Audit (COA), Morales said her office came up with the total amount of Corona's dollar deposits based on a report that the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC)

CJ KEEPING A4

UNANIMOUS VOTE The impeachment court votes to approve the Ombudsman's PowerPoint presentation.

Corona: Lantern of lies

(Editor's Note: Chief Justice Renato Corona issued this statement last night after Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales testified on his alleged unexplained foreign currency deposits at the Senate impeachment court.)

THE INITIAL testimony of the Honorable Ombudsman is quite unfortunate, if not very unfortunate.

I don't know how she came up with her own mathematical equations. She made a hodgepodge out of the accounts, making her numbers rhetoric.

The number of accounts alone is at best ridiculous. Her PowerPoint diagram is a lantern of lies which only

CORONA A4

LEGAL EAGLES

Cuevas finds his match in Morales

By Christian V. Esguerra

LEAD defense counsel Serafin Cuevas may have found his match in Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales.

Cuevas and Morales—both retired associate justices of the Supreme Court—yesterday engaged in heated exchanges on Day 37 of the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

But just as Morales, 70, showed up as her feistiest, the 83-year-old Cuevas was not to be outdone in sharpness.

Cuevas was repeatedly rebuffed, scolded, and even warned while conducting a direct examination of Morales for nearly an hour. In the end, Morales proved to be a tough nut to crack, even by a seasoned litigator like Cuevas.

She repeatedly told the court that she was already sounding like "a broken record" when asked by the defense to respond to certain questions.

Cuevas quizzed Morales on a variety of issues, particularly

CUEVAS A5

Jeepney fares, pan de sal price cut

By Paolo G. Montecillo and Amy Remo

THE WAY prices of some commodities are dipping, it's not only more fun in the Philippines, but cheaper too.

Starting today, the minimum jeepney fare has been reduced by 50 centavos to P8.00 in Luzon, and P7.50 in the Visayas and Mindanao. Watch out as well for the Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) Dalawentis Caravan, which will offer up to 50-percent discount on school supplies and hefty savings on basic goods. Pan de sal will cost P23 or P1 less per pack of 10 starting May 20, while the cost of medicines might be cut by as much as P1.30 a can.

President Aquino lauded the rollback of jeepney fares and attributed the feat to the "cooperative" sector.

"There's good news here and it will might change, so I was in a hurry to get here," Mr. Aquino said in jest, drawing laughter

JEEPNEY A11

P-Noy ties DA chief to post till 2016

By Norman Bordadora and Kristine L. Alave

DAVAO CITY—He may be one of the officials President Aquino often praises in his speeches but Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala isn't one of those the Chief Executive will endorse for any elective post in 2013.

"I'm sure he won't be running next year," the President said in a speech before people's organizations involved in the Department of Agriculture's Mindanao Rural Devel-

P-NOY, A6

PH welcomes China fishing ban in Panatag

By Norman Bordadora and Jerome Aning

DAVAO CITY—Saying Scarborough Shoal has already suffered ecological damage, President Aquino on Monday welcomed China's declaration of a fishing ban in the disputed waters.

That does not mean, however, that the Philippines recognizes the Chinese ban on fishing in the South China Sea, which Manila calls West Philippine Sea.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said it supported the President's decision to ban fishing at Scarborough Shoal, which the Philippines calls Panatag Shoal, as overfishing

AQUINO, A11

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NEWS	NATION	METRO	SPORTS	WORLD	LIFESTYLE
P-Noy: Look for other banana markets / A2	**11 die** as jeep falls into Bontoc ravine / A20	**Gun** instructor shot dead / A25	**Clippers** advance; Heat trip Pacers / A23	**US churches** split on gay marriage / A29	**In praise** of the 'asong Pinoy' / D1

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Mostly cloudy and Mindoro will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with some rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo/Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Legaspi	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Coron	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Dagupan	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Antique	Partly Cloudy	Butuan	Mostly Cloudy

Source: Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)

Second FRONTPAGE

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2 P 7

1-6D	2	25
4D	17	10
3D	1	1

SUERTRES

1-6D	3	2 3
4D	4	8 6
3D	9	0 0

4 DIGIT

9	2	9	4

MEGALOTTO 6/45

7	11	18	26	32	38

P16,100,109.00

6/55 GRAND LOTTO

6	9	23	27	35	45

P10,000,000.00

LOTTO: TOTO Team 094 LOTTO, result to 6/45: P1.50 above

P-Noy: Look for other banana markets

By Gerardine Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao,
Kristine L. Alave and Joey B. Nonoy

DAVAO CITY—President Aquino yesterday told banana exporters reeling from the stringent rules imposed on their product by China not to put their eggs in one basket and to diversify their markets.

"Last year, we had a similar problem with banana exporters who exported 30 percent of their produce to one country. He said there is diversify their market, duplagan pa para di matonsil sa isang lesser [to ensure their market so as not to be tied to one country]," the President told exporters during a press briefing at Grand Regal Hotel, where he was the guest of the Mindanao Coconut Development Program (MRDP) people's organizations' congress.

He said the government was doing its best to settle the issue with Chinese authorities, with the Department of Agriculture (DA) sending a team of experts to China this week to advocate the opening of roughly 1,300 containers of Cavendish bananas being held in at least three Chinese ports allegedly due to pest infestation.

The Philippines is also inviting Chinese experts to come to the country to see for themselves that the said containers observed by banana exporters as the plant level.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala, who had a meeting with banana exporters later in the afternoon, said the President's advice was the best the government could come up at. Though it was doing its best to settle the problem diplomatically with China.

Stephen Antig, president of the Filipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PBGEA), a big banana exporters group, insisted that a collapse of the Chinese market could have a severe impact on the industry which employs over a million people in Mindanao.

The Mindanao Banana Growers Exporters Association (MBFEA), composed of small banana exporters in Mindanao, signed a memorandum asking Pres. Benigno Aquino "to do everything" in his power to "save the banana industry."

But China may just be "posturing" the Philippines when it banned the entry of shipments of bananas due to scale insect infestation, agriculture officials said yesterday.

Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Plant Industry (DPI) Director Clarito Barron said the pest identified by China did not occur in bananas.

Barron said Chinese authorities informed the Philippines on March 8, a month before the final ouster Darsong Shoal Barred up, that the bananas from the plantations in Mindanao were contaminated with pests.

To settle the matter, Alcala proposed that a technical working group be created and two DPI staffers will go to China to check the extended banana exports and validate the suspicion of contamination.

"They said have credentials on that forty-one from the export shipments," Alcala said in a press briefing at the people's organizations congress.

The DPI chief also said they would send a shipment of bananas from Davao to Beijing to date for their inspection this week. "We will have open to us that they say are that our bananas are clean," Barron said.

Beijing wants Manila to conduct a quarantine inspection of all the containers before March 3. Beijing was content with random inspections of banana exports, Barron said.

The Philippines is one of the world's top banana exporters, utilizing some 80,000 hectares of land in Mindanao for banana production.

The country is the number one exporter of bananas to Japan, South Korea, China and New Zealand, making the fruit one of the country's top dollar earners. In 2010, total export earnings for fresh Cavendish banana was pegged at $720 million.

SALNs show P-Noy richer by P10M, Binay steady

By Lolo B. Salaverria

PRESIDENT Aquino's wealth grew by P10 million to P60.13 million by the end of 2011 due mainly to the inheritance he received from his late parents, former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and former President Corazon C. Aquino.

With no liabilities, Mr. Aquino's net worth rose to P60.13 million as of Dec. 31, 2011, based on his latest statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN). In 2010, his net worth was P50.099 million.

The President does not now richer than Vice President Jejomar Binay whose net worth dropped slightly to P57.479 million as of end-2011. Binay's (2010) net worth was P58.090 million.

Net worth is the difference between total assets less and liabilities.

Mr. Aquino earlier said his net worth for 2011 grew because he received his inheritance from his parents. His sisters had decided to give him sole ownership of the Aquino family residence on Times Street in Quezon City.

Based on his latest SALN, his total property amounted to P32.182 million. These include a residential house and lot in Quezon City that he acquired through inheritance in 1984, 2010 and 2011, and which has an acquisition cost of P24.31 million, including the buildings and improvements.

The President's personal and other property amounted to P32.967 million. These include P26.115 million in cash and in banks, as well as motor vehicles worth P4.2 million. He also has P521,829 in receivables and P3 million classified as "other assets."

Mr. Aquino's income as President in 2011 amounted to P1.212 million.

As for Binay, his assets amounted to P65.144 million—mainly the same as the President's—but he has P7.205 million in liabilities.

Binay's real properties were valued at P16.678 million and consisted of nine residential units in Makati, Mandaluyong, Laguna, Cavite and Batangas, and three agricultural lots in Batangas, Batasan and Isabela.

His real and personal properties amounted to P48.268 million. These consisted of P21.339 million in cash and in banks; P18.447 million in vehicles; P7.168 million in furniture, antiques, clothing and other properties; P4.195 million in the flower shop run by his wife; P1 million in investments; P1.264 million in jewelries, and P395,984 in prepaid income tax.

Binay's liabilities amounted to P7.203 million and consisted of P385,949 in income tax payable and P6.88 million representing the unpaid portion on a loan to own vehicle.

His income as Vice President for 2011 amounted to P1.251 million.

Tulfos' show suspension stays

By Marinel R. Cruz
Inter-Interest

THE MOVIE and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) yesterday denied TV5's request to lift the 20-day preventive suspension the ratings board had imposed on the program "Tl: Rapido, Inglesido."

Citing a petition for settlement it had earlier filed in the Court of Appeals, TV5 asked that the suspension be lifted while the legal proceedings connected to the case be suspended," said MTRCB legal counsel and spokesperson Ingrid Villareal.

"Since the MTRCB has not yet received any pleading or order about the alleged petition for the CA[...] the adjudication panel ruled to deny both motions," Villareal said after yesterday's hearing at the MTRCB offices in Quezon City.

On May 7, broadcasters Ben, Paulo and Erwin Tulfo issued public threats against celebrity couple Raymart Santiago and Claudine Barretto on their program "T3."

They were reacting to the meeting of their eldest brother Ramon, an election columnist, at Nino Aquino International Airport formerly Manila International.

On May 8, TV5 issued a public apology and announced the suspension of the Tulfo brothers from hosting "T3." Ramon Tulfo, Martin Andanar and Jaeyre Mel Sta. Maria would be their temporary replacements.

On May 10, the MTRCB released a statement that said "T3" had violated Presidential Decree 1986 "for using scenes and statements that are indecent and contrary to law, or with a dangerous tendency to encourage the commission of violence or of a wrong or crime." It also ordered a 20-day preventive suspension of the program.

During Monday's hearing, Villareal said TV5 "really moved" for a reconsideration, "but since no new arguments were made, the adjudication panel denied this." That meant the 20-day preventive suspension was still in effect, he said.

Villareal said that on the agreement of both parties, the MTRCB would file a position paper on or before May 17. TV5 was given up to May 25 to reply.

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Unfair of Sotto to pin blame on me, says De Lima

By Philip C. Tubeza

"THAT'S very unfair."

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago reacted yesterday to Senate President Vicente Sotto III's statement that she should be blamed for the flight of a Bureau of Corrections inmate convicted of rape by a Filipino woman.

"To me, that's very unfair that I'm being blamed for that. I need to remind the good senator that I now have no power to stop through a search list order or an HDO (hold departure order) anyone who wants to leave (the country)," De Lima said in an interview yesterday.

She said the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) had "politely" tried to persuade the Panamanian government to waive the diplomatic immunity of Fredrich Brenda Sticks, a technical officer of the Panama Maritime Authority, but it was unsuccessful. A 35-year-old woman has accused Sticks of raping her in his apartment in Ayala, days after they first met.

On Sunday, Sotto said De Lima did not lift a finger even after senators had questioned the issuance of a certification that said Sticks had diplomatic immunity. "Is she our justice secretary or the justice secretary of Panama?" Sotto had declared in a phone interview.

De Lima pointed out the Supreme Court had issued a temporary restraining order against the DOJ circular that allowed her to issue HDOs.

The DFA, she added, had also already issued a certification barring them from claiming diplomatic immunity). "The DFA is the primary agency that knows, understands and has expertise and competence (in the matter)," De Lima said.

She said that she asked her staff to review the case, but that it also concluded that Sticks had diplomatic immunity.

"So under those circumstances, what could I do? I could not stop him because I would then be the one who would be questioned, and it ain't here nor there in so far as diplomatic relations with Panama are concerned," the secretary said.

"I hope (Sotto) would not hastily make such statements. It's not fair to make," she added.

Radiofrequency ablation technique- a new way to burn cancer cells to death!

Mr. Aaron, a 66 year old from Ottawa Canada is a lover of life. A death sentence of hepatocellular Brenda's doctors may sound totally out his window. It was something that he really couldn't do without before hitting the sack. Gone his penchant for wine; it was surprising for his daughter to see that his appetite had rebuilded himself from and loved. It became obvious that something was wrong with Mr. Aaron when other non-natural works. His daughter opted to bring him to a local hospital for a check-up. Found it was during this examination (when it was discovered) that the right lobe of his liver had a 3cm*3.5cm tumor. Eventually it was confirmed to be liver cancer in the left lobe and he was advised continuously in the hospital for surgery. While everything was already set for the procedure, Mr. Aaron suddenly backed out on case of fear.

Amidst all these things, it was unanimous that Mr. Ho a (quite friend of Mr. Aaron who was based in China told them about a hospital wherein the tumor could be treated non-surgery. Upon hearing this, the family did not waste any time and flew Mr. Aaron to (China. Their destination: Guangzhou Medical Cancer Hospital. A group of experts made an evaluation on the condition of Mr. Aaron and decided to perform the Radiofrequency ablation treatment.

Radiofrequency ablation treatment, according to Professor Liu Yuanfang, is a new method in recent years that had yielded positive results in several cases of malignant solid tumors (especially liver) and had opened new ways for cure in treatment. The treatment boasts of various characteristics: small wounded, less pain, simple to operate, effective, safe, and most importantly, its efficacy is not dependent on the histological type or whether it is non-operation or not. What is more, almost it is that such treatment method is suitable for various type of cancer such as liver, lung, bone, metastatic, as occasion's tumor, and soft tissue sarcoma.

The good professor likewise emphasizes that such treatment is especially effective when it comes to advanced liver cancer. When diagnosed at its early stage, as cure is noted because human liver organ is not composed of sensory nerves. Pain is only felt when the tumor grows bigger reaches the membranes of the liver and at the same time compresses other organs within the body. While at this stage, the condition of majority of the patient is already developed to advanced stage, and 80% of them had already lost the chance to undergo surgery.

Recent records show that as of date, Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital had already treated 1,230 liver cancer patients with tumor having the size less than 3cm. The result was very encouraging because the patient's survival rate had been prolonged to as much as three years. In case wherein the size of tumors were greater than 3cm, the hospital had already treated 782 cases with the same positive outcome.

Radiofrequency ablation treatment, with the use of a thin electrode needle, provides safe and accurate procedure. The tumor system is designed with cold circulatory system and while the tissues are only subjected to heating the vascular, it does not affect the conduction of energy. Finally, through scientific principle the procedure can guarantee the degeneration and necrosis of tumor cells.

If you have experience such matters concerning cancer treatments and has inquiries kindly call 8225252, 0917-8028181, 0921-8892054 or visit Unit A-1102, 6780 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Website: www.amaranten.com.

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CJ keeping $12M in 5 banks–Ombudsman

From page A1

had prepared for the Office of the Ombudsman.

The AMLC report recorded a total of 795 transactions in Corona's foreign currency accounts with Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), Philippine Savings Bank (PS Bank), Allied Bank, Security Bank and Citibank, according to Morales.

Morales said the transactions had been "in not the ballpark of the account" but a record of the "transactions that were into funds ... including the inflow and outflow of funds."

CJM Commissioner Heidi Mendoza, who appeared briefly last night at the start of explain CDD) analysis of the transactions, said inflows into the accounts totaled $16.7 million over the past eight years.

Mendoza placed the total outflow from the accounts at $16.7 million.

Adverse witness

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, the presiding officer of the impeachment court, obliged Morales' request that she be presented as the first "hostile witness" for the defense, cutting her barrie schedule.

Time is her killing, she brought out what appeared to be pieces of evidence damaging to Corona.

Morales submitted to the impeachment court a copy of a 17-page report from the AMLC.

She said the report was among the reasons she wrote Corona on April 20 about her official's "fact-finding" investigation of his alleged ill-gotten wealth. She said she was also acting on three separate complaints with eventually the same allegations.

"I first sought the information from separate sources and since I ordered the conducting of the Anti-Money Laundering Council because I thought that the charges included some matters that were within the jurisdiction of the AMLC," Morales told the court.

"And then later, I constituted a panel of investigators and eventually, I wrote the AMLC seeking assistance to unravel the documentation of the truth of the charges," she added.

Lead defense counsel Serafin Cuevas spent much of his direct examination of Morales in questioning the Ombudsman's jurisdiction over the Chief Justice in connection with an outright investigation.

Ombudsman's mandate

Cuevas said the Ombudsman could not "compel" Corona to respond to the allegations, citing the constitutional protection against self-incrimination. But Morales stood her ground, saying she was "mandated" to conduct the investigation under Section 26 of the Ombudsman Act.

"I did not compel him, your honor," she replied. "I was just following the mandate of the law. That's his business if he did not wish to answer."

Enrile reminded Cuevas that he could invoke the provision against self-incrimination only "when a question is addressed to the respondent."

Defense counsels earlier manifested in open court that Corona would testify in the impeachment trial. But they first asked that the Ombudsman and the complainants on his alleged ill-gotten wealth testify in court.

While questioning by Enrile, Morales admitted that her office was indeed probing Corona's alleged foreign currency deposits. But she said the investigation was still a "raw buildup" and was yet to determine if the complaints would merit a preliminary investigation.

Morales said she asked Corona to respond to the complaints because "we want to find is enlighten us."

"Because as I said early on, I had sought the help of another agency [in the process of determining whether there was indeed unexplained wealth or things] to that effect, which would be violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act," she added.

In seeking the testimony of Morales and the complainants, the defense strategy seems to bring the matter of the alleged $12-million bank deposits to the impeachment court.

Corona's camp wanted Morales and complainants to accuse him of owning such deposits under oath.

Under questioning by Cuevas, Morales said none of the three complaints she had received mentioned the existence of an alleged $12-million deposit. She said she got the information from the AMLC.

OMBUDSMAN Conchita Carpio Morales waves a sheaf of documents containing the dollar transactions of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Not necessary

Cuevas questioned how the AMLC came up with the documents and why Morales did not mention in her letter to Corona that she had been in touch with the council. Morales said she did not find it "necessary" to do so.

Iniello said the Ombudsman might not be competent to respond to questions on how the AMLC had gathered information on the alleged $12-million accounts.

"If there's a violation by the AMLC, that is another issue altogether," he said.

Of the 82 foreign currency accounts, Iniello said it were in the BPI Ayala-Buendia branch; 18 in BPI Binondo Sucs.; 34 in BPI San Francisco del Monte (SFDM); 3 in BPI Management Investment Corp; 8 in PS Bank Cubao; 6 in PSBank Katipunan; 4 in Allied Bank Corp. in Ramirez; 2 in Deutsche Bank; and 1 in Citibank.

Fund movements

Morales said the team that looked at Corona's accounts made the following observations:

• Multiple accounts were created for a similar purpose and spread over various branches of the five banks.

• The transactions were described as having "circuitous fund movements." For example, funds would be drawn from one account and distributed to three others.

• There were numerous instances where funds were deposited and withdrawn on the same day.

• There were "significant movements on significant dates," including periods during the 2004 and 2007 elections and in the week that Corona was impeached in the House of Representatives in December last year.

Morales said she based on AMLC's investigations. Corona only had one dollar account in 2005 in his first year as associate justice of the Supreme Court.

Two years later, in 2005, this ballooned to 23 accounts; 20 at the start of 2007; 49 at the beginning of 2008; 63 by January 2009; 75 by 2010; and 81 by 2011.

Cuevas objection

Morales was about to discuss the remittance of one dollar account that contained $318,000 from an undisclosed branch and transferred to a BPI SFDM account when Cuevas raised his hand and objected.

Cuevas argued that Morales did not discuss the details of Corona's bank transactions during her direct testimony.

Under the rules of court, a witness cannot be cross-examined about matters not taken up then.

Corona: Lantern of lies

From page A1

ensured up her presentation, contrary to what some believe were an damning evidence.

Either she does not know what she is talking about, or is purposely misleading the impeachment court and the public.

In the very least to turn the AMLC around at the bloated numbers? Me, tell Orlando all her bloated numbers.

And since she is person serving, I urge her to immediately resign from her post for allowing herself to be used by this administration and making a laughing stock of "government auditing."

Indeed, this is another LBA issue.

Private prosecutor Mario Bautista, however, noted that the subpoena requested by the defense instructed the Ombudsman to bring the original and certified true copies of the complaint Harvey Keh and company filed against the Chief Justice in the Office of the Ombudsman.

The subpoena also instructed Morales to bring original and certified true copies of the documents on which Corona's accusers based their accusations that he had foreign currency accounts with "an aggregate value of $10 million."

"How the defense is trying to prevent the witness from complying with these very documents just because they know the documents are adverse to them," Bautista said.

PowerPoint

Cuevas contested that Morales' Power Point presentation was not part of her direct examination, prompting howls from the gallery.

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano raised his hand at that point, interjecting: Cuevas that when Morales was asked about the source of her information, that Corona had $10 million in deposit, the Ombudsman brandished a letter from AMLC.

"She held the letter up and waved it. My term toured Dios. Jinggoy! Tell him to get a copy right away, for we get some," Cayetano said.

The defense panel is the one who brought up the AMLC records. The prosecution right now is only scrutinizing the details. And the PowerPoint presentation will help do this," he stressed.

Sen. Loren Legarda seconded, saying the manner in favor to Morales' prosecution "with minimum interruption."

"But we do not know the source and the Ombudsman has no competence to discuss this report. She was not a party to the preparation," Enrile interjected.

Applause for Miriam

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago approached the microphone and pointed out that relevancy was "a primary rule of evidence."

"As long as the evidence is relevant, it is admissible in court. There is no prohibition of a PowerPoint presentation. There is no categorical prohibition in introducing evidence but the question is whether this is relevant. I vote for the PowerPoint presentation," she said.

Santiago's motion was greeted by thunderous applause from the gallery. Sen. Pantaleon Lacson seconded it immediately.

Enrile also rejected pleas from Cuevas asking that Morales be barred from making a PowerPoint presentation after detailed the trial of transactions that the AMLC found from Corona's supposed $12 dollar accounts.

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GMA coaccused Mendoza enters not guilty plea

By Leila B. Salaverria

FORMER Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza, now wheelchair-bound, yesterday pleaded not guilty to the graft charge filed against him in connection with the aborted National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp.

Mendoza, who has difficulty speaking and walking as a consequence of a stroke, did not talk before the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division during his arraignment.

He indicated his "not guilty" plea by shaking his head when asked by the court if he was pleading guilty or not guilty. His lawyer Alexander Poblador also asked the justices to enter a not guilty plea for him.

Mendoza suffered a stroke in March while celebrating his birthday in a resort in Batangas.

Poblador told the antigraft court that Mendoza was "slowly recovering" from his stroke.

When Fourth Division chair Justice Gregory Ong asked why Mendoza still appeared before the court given his condition, Poblador replied that his client was ready to be arraigned.

The charge against Mendoza was read to him as he sat in his wheelchair, and Poblador said his client understood the information.

Mendoza was the last to be arraigned among the coaccused of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in the NBN graft case.

Arroyo and the other coaccused—former Commission on Elections (Comelec) chair Benjamin Abalos—pleaded not guilty to the criminal charges last month.

They are accused of conspiring to ensure the approval of the government's $329-million NBN deal with China's ZTE Corp., which the Office of the Ombudsman alleged was overpriced and disadvantageous to the government.

They are also facing plunder charges before the Supreme Court.

Mendoza's lawyer said his client was not involved in the bidding process for the NBN project.

Poblador said Mendoza was merely a member of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) board, which approved the project.

Mendoza's wife, Amelia, was also present during the arraignment.

Mendoza is the husband of Commission on Audit Chair Grace Pulido-Tan.

Mendoza's arraignment was originally scheduled on April 24, but was moved to May 14 after Poblador said his client was undergoing medical treatment.

Mendoza's arraignment was originally scheduled on April 24, but was moved to May 14 after Poblador said his client was undergoing medical treatment.

Plastic or paper may be choice

CONSUMERS should have a choice between paper and plastic, and pay-for-it, the Solid Waste Management Association of the Philippines (SWAP), said in a study.

The study, headed by Ayala Foundation, said a "zero-ban" or regulation of the use of plastic bags instead of total elimination, and developing a more effective and efficient system of reuse or recycling of those plastic bags as well as proper collection and disposal."

It said that "it is not always advisable to choose one aspect (the environment) since an environmental solution influences other dimension like the socio-cultural, political, institutional, health, economic and technical."

It said an information and education campaign was needed and its priority must be a "change in people's habits" regarding waste disposal.

The local plastic industry said people should be given a choice depending on their needs. SWAP said any complaint about paper was that it was not as easy and strong to carry groceries in, especially when it rained.

"Shoppers should be given a choice and they should be able to pay for that choice," said Cesar Lee, spokesperson of the Philippine Plastic Industry Association, in a statement.

"That decision should include a responsibility to dispose of that choice properly. If there's an opportunity...to reuse or recycle plastic," he said.

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Defense: Ombudsman bombshell proof of gov't's 'orchestrated attacks'

By Marlet Ratree

THE BOMBSHELL testimony that Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales dropped at the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona yesterday was aimed solely to "orchestrate" "unfounded and nonsensical attacks," defense lawyers said.

Atty. Rudy Quiche said it was "nonsensical" for the Office of the Ombudsman to seek the assistance of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) in its investigation of alleged graft involving public officials.

"It is ordinary for the Ombudsman to coordinate with the AMLC directly. This does not happen ordinarily," Quiche said in a teary briefing.

"If they say the idea is the Chief Justice, then they should also do that to all the cases which had been pending in the Ombudsman for years. This only showed that their attacks against the Chief Justice are really orchestrated and nonsensical," he said.

The lawyer also lamented why Morales did not inform Corona that the antigraft body was already in possession of the AMLC documents on the Chief Justice's sequestered dollar deposits, saying Corona should have been "duly informed of the supposed evidences against him.

"What would be the basis of the Chief Justice in answering the allegations against him if they will not inform him of the evidence?" Quiche said.

"The Ombudsman was not only a hostile witness. She was also combative. We're not ready for that."

Tranquil Salvador III said Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile should have restrained Morales from engaging chief witness counsel Rosalie Cureso to debates.

"There were questions which should have been allowed," he said.

"In regular courts, if a witness appears to be belligerent or combative, the judge should have reminded that witness (to behave) and allow the counsel to ask questions," he added.

In particular, Salvador said Enrile should not have prohibited Cureso from fielding questions over how Morales was able to get hold of the AMLC documents.

Towards the end of the day's proceedings, Cureso showed disunity in what appeared to him to be heckling by private prosecutor Mario Bautista.

"May we know from the defense if the Chief Justice is giving in to unity tomorrow? Is he going to testify tomorrow? Is he going to testify tomorrow?" Bautista asked Cureso even after the Senate had announced that Morales would continue her testimony today.

"Why ask that? It's like we don't have an alternative? You are not entitled to a private session of the Supreme Court. Belong because (show a little respect)," retorted Cureso.

"I think the prosecution should not ask the defense when they will present their witnesses," Enrile said.

"I'm sorry," Bautista said.

Ombudsman's testimony possibly 'the game-ender,' says lawyer

By the Inquirer Staff

TO ONE prime lawyer, yesterday's testimony of Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales at Chief Justice Renato Corona's impeachment trial was possibly "the game-ender" of his impeachment trial.

But Corona's high-powered defense team admonished critics to be cool, yes, but haven't heard the Chief Justice yet.

"If (the bank accounts) were wrong and he does not explain them credibly, that would be the game-ender," former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez said in a phone interview. "The nature of the testimony is devastating."

But Chavez stressed the importance of allowing Corona's lawyers to finish their case before making any conclusions.

University of the East law dean Amado Valdez said Morales' testimony essentially uncovered what the defense had been trying to keep under wraps, until she brought the most "meaningful" evidence to the trial.

"It's very ironic that the defense witness in the person of the Ombudsman is the one that will break the camel's back," Valdez said. If Corona fails to explain the dollar accounts, he may very well be convicted, he said.

Rolando Macabitol, an impeachment analyst, said the Ombudsman's presentation should be taken for what it is amid Corona takes the witness stand.

"We still have to hear what the Chief Justice will say if he has an explanation with regard to the flow of transactions as reported by the AMLC (Anti-Money Laundering Council)," Macabitol said.

"It's important that he has to testify. He has to clear it."

Political decision

Macabitol said whether or not the AMLC report and Morales' presentation were admitted as evidence would not matter.

"There's an standard of evidence. Because, out of the seasoned judges are lawyers, they will build the case and judge it in their minds. The case will be judged politically," he said.

The lead prosecutor, Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., said even he runs Qua the Chief Justice had $12 million in 82 separate bank accounts "check the member's ties of the people to corporate levels."

The Iloilo lawmaker said the transactions would be "very difficult to explain."

"I can't understand the strategy of the defense. Until now I can't decipher why they called the Ombudsman," he said.

Too early to celebrate

Asked if the "game was over" for the Chief Justice, Tupas said: "I can't say that... Let's not count chickens yet because there's no conviction yet."

Tupas also said: "We know from the very beginning that there are bank accounts, but we did not imagine, even in our wildest dreams, that the magnitude would be this huge and extensive."

Corona's lawyers sounded unfazed. Retired Associate Justice Serafin Cuevas, lead defense counsel, dismissed as "hearsay" Morales' testimony.

"What did she verify her? There are nothing. She did not even have personal knowledge on those bank accounts. We cannot even [peek] her on the veracity of the documents and the accuracy of the figures," Cuevas told reporters.

'Wait for our turn'

Asked if he considered Morales' testimony damaging, Cuevas said: "These are just transaction accounts. There were no opening and closing balances. Which of those accounts are already closed? Which of those are still active? [Morales] cannot testify on that."

He said the defense had asked the Senate to subpoena AMLC executive director Julia Bacay-Abad to testify on the bank documents which the council supposedly provided Morales.

"Please wait for our turn to explain before you judge us," Cuevas said. "Please don't be influenced under [Republic Act No.] 9426. There could be just their connection."

Political analyst Ramon Casiple saw matters differently.

"I think the smoking gun evidence prosecutors have been waiting for," Casiple said, adding: "Ombudsman Carpio Morales has given Chief Justice Corona his crown of thorns ... Either he resigns or he testifies to make his explanations." With reports from Michael Bueza, Lyla Salaverria, Philip Palmos, Michael Lim and Jerome Aning

That's vintage Carpio Morales, says lawyer

By Leila Salaverria and Philip C. Tubeza

AS A LAWYER who had argued several cases before the Supreme Court on loan, then Justice Conchita Carpio Morales was someone you do not face unprepared.

"She's trained to have difficult questions," said lawyer and UP law professor Harry Roque, who had represented various parties in total arguments during Morales' term as magistrate.

So it was no surprise for Roque that Morales, now the Ombudsman, was no shrinking violet when she took the witness stand in the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Roque said she was matter-of-fact, outspoken and assertive, based on what he saw in the sessions times he argued his case before her and her colleagues in the high court. She was combative in the impeachment trial, he said.

"That's vintage Carpio Morales," he said.

When she was still at the Supreme Court, Morales voted in favor of the creation of a multi-commission investigating the Aurora arms smuggling.

She withdrew from the Chief Justice's ruling after the retirement of Chief Justice Reynato Puno and dissented on the Supreme Court decision that the judiciary is not covered by the rule against midnight appointments.

Morales also dissented in the high court's decision upholding former National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) Chief Romulo Neri's invocation of executive privilege in refusing to divulge information on the National Broadband Network (NBN)-ZTE deal.

She also voted against the constitutionality of the Missing Act, which the Arroyo administration was pushing.

Roque said Morales also authored the ruling that junked the celebrated presumptive response policy of the Arroyo administration.

"The Ombudsman rose from the ranks and was one of the Abad Justice Girls or the Justices of (former Justice) Secretary Vicente Abad Justice, the other one being Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago," Roque said.

"They were roommates at the Department of Justice (DOJ) when they were state counsels," he added.

Morales graduated valedictorian in elementary and in high school at Pasay Elementary School and Pasay Rizal's Institute. She earned her Bachelor of Arts (Economics) in 1964 and her Bachelor of Laws in 1968, both from the University of the Philippines.

After graduation from law school, she worked at the Atienza Tolentino and Del Rosario law offices. In 1971, she joined the DOJ as special assistant to Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Justice. It was after almost 22 years of service in the justice department that she joined the judiciary in 1993.

In 1993, she was appointed presiding judge of the Pili, Camarines Sur Regional Trial Court. Three years later, she was transferred to the Pasay Regional Trial Court.

In 1994, she was appointed to the Court of Appeals, and on Sept. 3, 2002, she was elevated as the 151st member of the Supreme Court.

She was appointed Ombudsman by President Aquino on July 2011.

Ombudsman employees also describe their boss as "feisty"—someone who tends to speak bluntly. They said Morales tends to be supportive of her staff, but makes sure employees and challenges questions posed before her.

She also appears to dislike being asked the same thing twice. During the agency's indigenous month against corruption last week, she noted that she was reminding like a "broken record" when she was asked about the purpose of the activity the second time.

Cuevas finds his match in Morales on Day 37

From page A1

her investigation of the Chief Justice in connection with his failure to disclose $10 million bank deposits, an allegation Corona has vehemently denied.

But Morales stood her ground, maintaining that her office was mandated to investigate cases that involve high-net-worth government officials, including the questioning, Morales appeared combative.

Just explaining

At one point, she raised her voice and argued with Cuevas, prompting him to ask the Senate to "admonish" her.

"I am not arguing, I was just explaining," she retorted.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile also chastised Cuevas for asking Morales to "hostile" witness after lengthy exchanges between Cuevas and Morales.

When he asked if Corona could be likened to an accused in a criminal case, Morales bristled. Cuevas: "You become an accused only when you are indicted in court."

Morales: Accused instead of Corona could not explain why her office was "compelling" the Chief Justice to respond to the complaint and in effect be a witness against himself, prescribed under the Bill of Rights. She cited Section 20 identifying such powers under the Ombudsman Act.

"Are you invoking the constitutionality of Section 20?" she asked Cuevas.

Broken record

Enrile interjected and told Cuevas not to "argue with the witness." The senator told him: "You are asking for a legal opinion. That is a legal characterization. We are dealing with facts here."

Morales said she was merely asking "like a broken record" when she was asked by Cuevas about the documents her office got from the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC). She earlier told the court that information on the alleged $10 million deposits was not mentioned in the complaints, but came from the AMLC.

Cuevas had objected to admission from Morales that she did not include in the bank deposits against Corona in which she asked him to respond to the charge brought before her office, which was based on newspaper reports.

In one instance, the Ombudsman appeared to be testifying a trap when Cuevas brought up the issue that foreign currency deposits were supposed to be confidential.

"So, you are saying that those accounts exist because you're saying that those are confidential?" she asked him, to which Cuevas replied: "No, I'm not saying (that). It is your answer that there are reports to these effects."

Cuevas was suggesting that the evidence could be illegal and that anti-money laundering law, which specifies that dollar accounts can only be revealed under a court order or a case under litigation.

Formidable

The Supreme Court has issued a temporary restraining order on Corona's purported dollar accounts on a petition by Philrank, which cited confidentiality of bank deposits.

Asked by Cuevas if she had an order to open the bank deposits in mind, she replied: "Possible for impeachment in December?"

She knows what she's saying. She's good. Sure," said Sen. on President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada in a tweet message.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan described Morales as "formidable witness."

Sen. Francis Escudero said, "It seems that Cuevas did not score a point."

"The trial has leveled up," said a Senate staff member, Michael Calizo. With a report from Michael Lim Ubac

P-Noy ties DA chief to post till 2016

From page A1

ognized Program.

"He has an obligation to run until 2016," Mr. Aquino added.

He has tasked Alcala with addressing food security, assuring that the President can various secretaries said the agriculture secretary had accomplished more than satisfactorily.

The President reiterated yesterday that the Philippines under Alcala's watch as agriculture secretary would become "a net exporter" of rice by 2013—a huge leap from being an importer of the staple that has administration came to power in 2010.

"There's a good chance, when Secretary Alcala speaks, a man's better words to me or reach very soon. Consider this, that year we can already become a net exporter of rice A—this is a big P—the smallest would cooperate," Mr. Aquino said.

"You know 22 cheers pay on a roadway can get cheap and during harvest, the difficult to cost would go to waste. So let's include in our prayers that if it's possible the storms would set their appointments after the harvest when we need to have water in our farms," he added.

Even when Alcala made a move consider that when he announced Mr. Aquino before his speech yesterday, the President had already spoken to the agriculture secretary.

"It appears that Penny Alcala's outcomes forgot my name. I would have had him replaced but he does a good job. So we can't replace him," the President said.

Presumed senatorial

In court speaking engagements, Mr. Aquino identified the administration's presumed senatorial candidates for the 2013 midterm elections by citing what they had or be achieved in their respective fields.

They include Joel Villanueva, head of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and Mar Roxas Rep. Jose Edgardo Angara, one of the spokespersons of the House prosecution panel in the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

At a news conference yesterday Alcala said the government wanted to end the costly rice exportation program next year and start exporting rice by 2014, Daily Tab.

By the time Mr. Aquino steps down in 2016, the country should produce enough meat, dairy or fish, Alcala said. These are the products that the country still imports in huge quantities, he said.

Building the cattle industry and making the country produce enough milk is a tall order, Alcala said.

The Philippines imports 80 percent of its milk requirements, according to the National Dairy Authority.

If the three agriculture subsectors flourish in the seven to ten years around, he said.

Alcala added that the production of a closed season on cattle fishing in the waters off the Zamboanga Peninsula has helped to increase the number populations in those waters.

Rice lifted

The ban was lifted recently, and now, according to Alcala, fishers bring home bigger catches.

Encouraged by those results, the Department of Agriculture is looking at temporary closures in other depleted fishing grounds, Alcala said.

The department is also negotiating with its counterparts in Papua New Guinea to allow tuna caught in Papuan seas to be processed in the Philippines, for a change. The Philippines will export certain vegetables to Papua New Guinea and teach rice farming to Papuans.

The fisheries sector, which saw a 4-percent contraction in previous quarters, is on its way to recovery, Alcala said. Helping it to recover is the reopening of the Pacific high seas to Philippine fishers, he said.

Irrigation

Alcala knew improving the supply of staples and other foods, Alcala said he would also continue to expand public works for agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture will build more irrigation and post-harvest facilities, he said.

"We will never stop with irrigation," he said. "And if we don't have post-harvest facilities, we can only dream of self-sufficiency," he said.

CJ joins SC employees in prayer

FIVE HOURS before Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales testified in his impeachment trial, Chief Justice Renato Corona went to the packed Supreme Court employees in praying for his acquittal, reading verses from the Book of Revelation.

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heavens and the first earth had passed away and the sea was no more," Corona said, reading from a prayer book.

More than 50 supporters, clad in red, joined him and his wife as they attended a lunchtime session Mass in the court lobby. After the Mass, Corona led his supporters in prayer, commending himself and his family to God.

"I ask for the grace of steadfastness and presence ... today," Corona said in a prayer.

He declined to be interviewed, telling reporters: "Mass po! Is he walked back to his office. Philip C. Tubeza

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His Excellency Benigno Aquino III
President, Republic of the Philippines

It is truly remarkable when a learning institution is committed to providing holistic development to its students. I salute the AMA University for inculcating good values in our youth and empowering them to reach their potentials. To the graduating batch, may this commencement exercises mark the beginning of sustainable and prosperous times for you. May you continue to make your families and your mentors proud as you create opportunities for self-actualization and give back to your community and to the Filipino people. Maraming bayong lahat!

Jejomar Binay
Vice President, Republic of the Philippines

It is my deepest pleasure to congratulate the graduating class of 2012! This commencement ceremony caps your many years of hard work, patience and perseverance. I have absolute faith and confidence that with your sense of commitment and your passion for excellence, you shall reach new heights in your chosen careers. May you become men and women of academic and technical excellence who can contribute to the development of the country and lead quality lives for yourself and your family. Congratulations and every good luck for your success!

DR. AMABLE R. ACERZO V, OBA
Chairman Emeritus, AMA Education System

This is an especially significant period in your life and I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you. Graduating translates you with a variety of options for pursuing your objectives. Your education allowed you to increase your knowledge and enhanced your advantage to respond to the challenges that the global economy may put forth before you. Along with your capabilities, your motivation and drive to succeed, I am confident that you are destined to triumph. Congratulations and best wishes!

DR. AMABLE C. AZURILLO III
President and CEO, AMA Education System

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PH youth turn out in droves to build homes for poor

By Kristine Felizas Manguray

THE NUMBERS tell a story of the compassion Filipinos feel for one another.

Among five Asia Pacific countries, it was the Philippines that had the biggest turnout for two simultaneous youth builds for Habitat for Humanity last Saturday.

Thousands of 18 to 25 year olds teamed up in Sorsogon City and Cagayan de Oro City to build homes for the poor who were victims of two deadly typhoons in 2011.

The numbers stunned the organizers themselves who had expected fewer participants.

In Sorsogon where 1,000 young people turned up, Menardo Madrigal Balagtas, chair and founder of the Habitat Youth Council, and the Philippine contingent was misleading the biggest that participated in Habitat's first-ever Asia Pacific-Wide Youth Build.

In Cagayan de Oro, 3,000 youths came, making the Philippines' total 4,000 participants. The total for all five participating countries... the Philippines, China, India, Indonesia and Thailand ...was 5,000.

"It's the biggest split this (contributed a lot) to the number of volunteers today" said Ishaqe in interviews with reporters.

The 1,000 Sorsogon volunteers came from Bikol Technological University, Technological Institute of the Philippines, De La Salle University-College of St. Benilde and International School of Manila, among other schools.

The initial goal to build 100 houses as a result was increased to 150.

Once completed, the houses in Barangay Talisa, Sorsogon, will be turned over to 150 families that lost their homes to Typhoon "Pedring" last year.

In Indahag, Cagayan de Oro City, around 500 families displaced by Typhoon "Sendong" also last year, will soon get their houses.

"It's really fun, actually," Cyrd Salvadora, 25, a volunteer, told the Inquirer when asked what the thought of the experience.

Although their collaborators classes on weekdays, the morning (Until you education student at RTI) and the duties mind spending her Saturday) laying one hollow block on top of another under the scorching sun.

"When's that compared to what other people experienced when the typhoon was here?" she said with a smile.

SAMARITAN SPIRIT Youth volunteers answer the call of Habitat for Humanity and flock to Barangay Talisa, Sorsogon, to build houses for poor victims of last year's Typhoon "Pedring." [illegible]

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J. Alcantara; 91

J. [illegible] Alcantara of Pangasinan, Lucanin area, passed away peacefully on May 14. He was 91.

He is survived by his wife Pacita and children Jaime, Gloria, Benjamin and Jun, David and Mely, Monica and Carlos, Honorio and Gloria, Pepito and Elbee, and Santiago and Alma; his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

His body lies at the family residence on San Joaquin Street in Pangasinan.

Interment will be on May 19 at the Pangasinan Catholic Cemetery after the 2 p.m. Mass.

The Daily Gospel

Tuesday - May 15, 2012
6th Week of Easter
Soldiers Die for Christ

1st Reading: Acts 19:22-29

At this we the crowd against them and the officials saw the clothes off Paul and Silas and ordered them to be flogged. And after inflicting many blows on them, they threw them in prison, charging the jailer to guard them safely. Upon receiving these instructions, he threw them into the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly a severe earthquake shook the place, so that the prison's foundations trembled; immediately all the doors flew open and the chains of all the prisoners fell off. The jailer woke up to see the prison gates wide open. Thinking that the prisoners had escaped, he drew his sword to kill himself, but Paul shouted to him, "Do not harm yourself! We are all still here."

The jailer asked for a light, then rushed in, and fell at the feet of Paul and Silas. After he had secured the other prisoners, he led them out and asked, "What must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you and your household will be saved." Then they spoke the word of God to him and to all his household.

Soon at that hour of the night, the jailer took care of them and washed their wounds; and he and his whole household were baptized at once. He led them to his house, served a meal and rejoiced with his whole household that he had come to believe in God.

Gospel: John 16:5-11

Jesus said to his disciples, "But now I am going to the One who sent me, and none of you asks me 'where' I am going, instead you are overcome with grief because of what I have said.

"Indeed believe me: it is better for you that I go away, because as long as I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go away, it is to send him to you, and when he comes, he will convict the world in facts of sin, of the world with regard to sin, to the way of righteousness, and to the Judgment.

"What has been the sin? They did not believe in me. What is the way of righteousness? I go to the Father to the Father, and you will see me no more. What Judgment? The Ruler of this world has himself been condemned."

Reflection

One passage I search your ordinary experience for the day. It is possible to be so much around a person that you don't see or understand them at all. You see a thousand details about them, but miss their essence. We fail to see the spirit of the person. It may fail to realize it, like a friend we would possibly fail to see his deeply. Many disciples "walked no more with him" (Jn 6:66). Seeing leaves him for months or years. His absence, temporarily, paradoxically, makes him more present. He is present to us through the Spirit.

Libre? For Sale!

25 YEARS

BUILDING A HEALTHY NATION

MEDICard

Through the years, MEDICard Philippines has steadily increased its partners, a solid proof of confidence. From a handful of doctors who believe that health care is for all, the health maintenance company now has 500,000 members.

ALMOST every successful company has humble beginnings and MEDICard is no exception. Founder Vicente Montoya recalls the challenges the company had to hurdle to keep it going.

"At the beginning, we had a hard time convincing employers and hospitals [of the need to have an HMO plan]," Doc Mon said. "There was definitely resistance at first," he said. "The HMO concept was new. Some felt it was like socializing health care. There were doctors who were against it. And there were those who were convinced that the idea would never work."

But through patience and to stay true to its commitment of providing affordable health care to Filipinos, MEDICard Philippines was able to educate people of the benefits of having a plan.

More than the business side, the true calling for Doc Mon and his three sons, Luis Montoya, senior vice president for special projects, Jon Montoya, senior vice president for sales and marketing, and Nicky Montoya, a doctor and the president, is to help Filipinos access to affordable yet limit health services.

The three brothers have already carved a career of their own but they saw the potential of bringing the company to the next level and further expanding its reach. So, when their father was forced to maintain his involvement in 2010 due to his acute health issue, the three sons took over. Luis, who oversees the operations, was the first to join in 1993. In 1999, Nicky became part of the company. Jon was the last to join in 2007. The brothers have their own strengths that benefit the company.

The sons continue their father's vision and are not budging in to business challenges. Even during its infancy, MEDICard has already shown an intensity to thrive. With patience, it's tiptoe responded and the company continually grows.

Just three years after it was founded, MEDICard launched its outside Manila as it opened offices in Cagayan de Oro, Cebu City, and Davao City. And the previous year, MEDICard launched a new and sophisticated lifestyle center, a far cry from its old but still reliable home in Sagittarius Bldg., Makati City.

"This lifestyle center is a representation of a revitalized MEDICard," Jon said.

"The lifestyle center is also a signal for MEDICard changing its game to defensive prevention," he said. "We will be promoting a healthy lifestyle."

Nicky said that the lifestyle center will be a total package for health and wellness. "Aside from the clinics, we also have a dermatology center, dental clinic, classes in yoga and clinics, a gym for rehabilitation, and a zen garden. The Sagittarius is a haven of healthy food." "The Lifestyle Center also has a resource clinic and office-outsourced and harmonious therapy services. The Colorectal Specialists Inc., founded by a group of Colorectal Specialists decided to market their first base of operations at the MEDICard Lifestyle Center," he added.

MEDICard has been constantly upgrading its facilities and acquires technological advancements in the medical field to benefit its members.

Aside from wanting to provide affordable health care to Filipinos, MEDICard has been helping improve lives of the less fortunate people in poor communities by providing regular medical missions. Medicare is a project by MEDICard Foundation which was made official only this past November, even though for 25 years, employees and the company have been doing its part in giving back to the community.

The company is not resting on its laurels. The headlines are already setting and anticipating challenges. Even after 25 years, HMOs are still a foreign thing for many underprivileged Filipinos. MEDICard wants to be instrumental in filling the gap in health care where government cannot.

And the Montoyas never stop dreaming. The lifestyle center which is located in Shaw de Roxas corner Gil Puyat Ave. in Ayala's theme every from Sagittarius (hello) is just a beginning. Doc Mon is hoping that MEDICard will have its own hospital someday. At present, the company has set up several clinics and consolidation centers in strategic locations which are very accessible to its members.

"A lot of Filipinos still don't know how to access doctors," he says. "They don't know what to do, where to go, who to see, and they're afraid—of the costs, their illness, and the doctors. MEDICard will solve that."

Even with all these changes, MEDICard's vision remains the same and it is determined to continue until all Filipinos have access to affordable health care.

MEDICARD LIFESTYLE CENTER

A Lifestyle Center not just for the rich and famous

WITH the increase in diabetes and obesity cases among Filipinos, many health experts agree that the key to a longer and fuller life for us Filipinos is to live everyday lifestyle. In fact, these conditions are often referred to as "lifestyle diseases," stressing the need to live a life that is healthy, simple, and with the least stress.

In response to this growing need, MEDICard set up a Lifestyle Center that combines the ingredients of intellectual stimulation and the comforting atmosphere of a wellness facility to give clients an all-around experience in health and fitness.

"Everything is here," said Luis Montoya, MEDICard Senior Vice-President for Special Projects. "It's a one-stop center where people can go for their wellness needs. It's really designed to give our members and even non-members a venue for managing their health and well-being."

Relaxing ambiance

As a pioneer in the HMO industry, MEDICard is blazing the trail once more with the Lifestyle Center, the first of its kind in the country.

Rising to the prime corner of Paseo de Roxas and Gil Puyat Avenues, the facility is situated right in the heart of the bustling central business district. That makes this "integrated" hub accessible to hardworking professionals without stressful, time-passed lives can benefit from a little do-it-yourself.

Clients will immediately notice the difference between the Center's homey and spacious lobby and a hospital's antiseptic feel. The ambiance is sleek, with nature-inspired décor and beautiful zen gardens.

The background music and pervading scent are soothing. The walls are adorned with artworks. These calming elements give the place a wonderful aura of set and tranquility, an escape from the hustling city life that only five-star resorts can provide.

"We want a welcoming, relaxing environment for our clients, and not the institutional hospital environment as they would heal not only physically but spiritually as well," Ms. Montoya said.

All sections of the Center are designed with the patients' dispositions in mind. The pediatrics area, for instance, has deserted interiors, not to mention a playroom where children can have fun to take away their fear of hospitals.

Going the extra mile

MEDICard President Dr. Nicky Montoya said the company's approach to health has

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A Lifestyle Center not just for the rich and famous

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always been well-rounded, and the Lifestyle Center is just another way to give clients as much help as they need.

"Since we do executive checkups here, we thought of going the extra mile and make health-promoting services available," said Dr. Montoya. "For example, if one of our doctors advise a client to go on a particular kind of diet, we have the means in effect that here. In that sense the Center is a very practical supplement to a traditional HMO business."

Most illnesses today, added Dr. Montoya, are caused by an unhealthy and demanding lifestyle, such as poor diet, lack of physical exercise, and the like. And to aside from the traditional medical approach, the Center is a strong advocate of a change in lifestyle, not to mention a change in the way clients see wellness.

"For instance, we actively encourage more physical activity. We'd also like to give tips on what food to eat because a balanced diet is key to health and well-being," he said.

The Center is also home to a state-of-the-art dermatology center, a fitness facility, dental clinic, a yoga center, and a Natural Rejuvenation Clinic for those on the lookout for safe, effective, and affordable ways of maintaining or regaining their health and youthful look.

Its Skin and Body Clinic is a laser and aesthetic care center that provides a wide range of services, including diamond peel, pain-free hair removal, non-surgical facelift, body reshaping and contouring, infusion mesotherapy, and more. Manning the clinic are board-certified dermatologists, nutritionists, management physicians, and nurses, all of whom are tailored to give patients the highest level of care.

Fitness classes are also offered in the Center. From the Latin dance-inspired zumba to the always popular yoga, services in these fitness programs guarantee that exercising is not too enjoyable as well, especially when conducted in groups and in a fun environment.

More than wellness

At the same time, Dr. Montoya assured that the MEDICard Lifestyle Center is not just another wellness facility where medical consumers take a backseat to experienced caregiving.

Accredited health professionals, highly competent physicians, and allied health professionals, such as diet counselors and nutritionists, are all in the Center to ensure that nothing is compromised in terms of medical care.

Moreover, MEDICard's accredited trade retreat, including its operation as the only HMO company run by leading doctors, guarantees the high level of medical expertise that takes place in the Center's clinics.

Its wide array of available medical examinations assures it from a run-of-the-mill wellness clinic. These include diagnostic services, mammography, pulmonary function test, allergy/asthma, cardiology, ENT, internal medicine, endoscopy, physical therapy, OB-Gynecology, gastroenterology, nephrology, pulmonology, rehabilitation, and a lot more.

Through its extensive search, Dr. Montoya is able keep himself up-to-date with the latest trends and technologies in the medical field. The Center is breaking new ground in the field of colorectal healthcare, with the launch last year of the Colorectal Specialists, Inc. founded by a group of colorectal specialists who decided to concert their first hour of operation at the Medicard Lifestyle Center. Designed to make colorectal care cost-effective and accessible, the clinic makes use of a multi-disciplinary approach to cater to a patient's needs.

"It's not just the surgeon who decides or recommends whatever's needed for the patient," said Dr. Diane Fajardo-Sardalien, one of only two practicing female colorectal surgeons in the country today.

"We also involve the medical oncologist, radiation oncologist, and other specialties like palliative care if it's stage IV or a pain specialist. The permutation of options is endless. It's important that all the specialties are around so they can come up with the best approach for this particular patient. We try to tailor the treatment, depending on the patient's preference, their goals for conservation, their functional capability," she explained.

From benign conditions such as hemorrhoids, fissures, fistulas, polyps, and constipation to potentially fatal colorectal cancer, the specialist clinic offers a range of state-of-the-art treatment options, including minimally invasive surgery that can be performed as an out-patient procedure.

"Many people with common colorectal problems like hemorrhoids do not know where to go," said Dr. Montoya.

Convenience clinics

This new type of "convenience" clinic is the latest of the many cutting-edge features of the Center, where people can meet specialists outside the usual hospital clinic setting.

"Here, patients can avail themselves of experts' straightforward advice. There will be no hospitalization and the procedures will be done cost-effective and affordable," Dr. Montoya said.

The Center is also pioneering what it says to be the first outpatient breast clinic in the country with its Mammotome machine. The procedure, which uses a small single incision, is a less invasive but still highly reliable alternative to open surgical biopsy.

"Think of it as the equivalent of a bomb facelift, but this time, in breast biopsy," quipped Dr. Montoya.

Among the other services being offered here at the Lifestyle Center is Natural Rejuvenation Therapy where new age protocols are introduced to allow the body to heal and rejuvenate itself. Here, patients are advised to undergo five processes: identify the toxins, remove the toxins naturally, energize the body, boost the immune system and balance the hormones, all in an effort to bring the aging body back to life.

The Bio Stem Cell Therapy, on the other hand, is another choice for individuals who want to live a lot longer and look so much younger through the Autologous bi-stem cell transplant, the latest cutting-edge technology that boosts the immune system, helps in lifted cancer cells in the body from waking up and helps in managing debilitating diseases that come with aging. It also slows down aging as it restores one's energy and mental alertness.

Psychology and stress management sessions are likewise being offered at the Center by Dr. Lucille Montes by appointment.

Eating healthy at Sugarleaf

Another integral part of a sustainable and healthy lifestyle is diet. With the ever increasing popularity of fast food, it is little wonder that lifestyle diseases such as hypertension and diabetes are in fact rooted in unhealthy eating habits.

To help its roster of elite counselors and weight management experts, the Center also houses a one-of-a-kind restaurant that gives its clients a healthier but also tasty option when it comes to dining.

Sugarleaf, which gets its name from a sweet South American herb, is for those who wish to eat healthy but at the same time does not want to feel deprived.

"We try to serve items that can be consumed by regular fans, but we don't want them not to enjoy their favorite fast food," said Angelo Narciso Sengco, the restaurant's marketing and business development head.

"If you follow a very strict diet, you might be healthy physically but you might be feeling deprived because you're not getting what you're craving," he said. "So we tell people that they can still eat a hamburger or meat every so often, but they must try to incorporate healthier items, like organic food and fruits and vegetables, into their diet as much as possible."

Organic food, a cornerstone to the Sugarleaf menu, are grown without the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, and are all naturally weight-reducing, detoxifying, anti-oxidizing, and energy-boosting.

"Organic food nourishes you. It doesn't give you empty calories, like heavily processed food items, which make you feel full, but doesn't nourish or energize," said Mr. Sengco.

Far from being bland and boring dishes, the offerings at Sugarleaf are prepared in a way that appeals to the more discerning of culinary palates. Its bestsellers include its lamb tomato-kesong puti sandwich, Turkey Salchief, smoked blue marlin and dill, all of which can be topped off by fresh fruit juices.

Even desserts are healthy at Sugarleaf, including its popular cashew nuts crust, vegan chocolate cake, and Jello's Coco-Kefir Ice Cream, which uses Greek coconut kefir, making it completely vegan but still creamy.

"We serve low glycemic cakes and pastries suitable for diabetics," explained Mr. Sengco. "We don't use artificial sweeteners. We only use natural ones or those that come from plants, like coconut sugar."

To counteract the healthy regimen at your home, Sugarleaf is also a minimart that offers a whole range of items for any health buff, from organic produce sourced all the way from La Trinidad to the famous "superfoods," known for their high level of nutrients, such as ice organic malunggay, chia seeds, and acai berries. Also on the shelves are free-range chicken, natural sweeteners, carabao's milk, air-dried tuna and homemade dips and dressings, among others.

Workshops on organic farming, healthy cooking, and other wellness topics are also offered here from time to time, making this location truly one-of-a-kind.

Wellness for all

In the same way that MEDICard was conceived based on the idea of providing quality and accessible healthcare to Filipinos, the Lifestyle Center aims to achieve the same thing when it comes to wellness.

"We want to distance the notion that health and wellness are only for the rich," said Dr. Montoya, whose father, Dr. Nicanor Montoya, the company's founding president, originally envisioned the philosophy of MEDICard. "We want to make things simple and doable, even wellness."

"My father's original idea was: if Filipinos could just see easier to get to a doctor. There has to be a way for them to have access to doctors and medicines," he explained.

And as MEDICard continues to cater to its ever-growing clientele, it remains committed to finding new and innovative ways to pioneer the HMO industry. The Lifestyle Center, from the pioneering concept to its timely appeal, is just another testament to MEDICard's leadership role.

MEDICard and the changing times

Evolution of health care in the country and how MEDICard kept in step with the times

IN 1987 when the Philippines was just emerging from two decades' authoritarian rule micromanagement and inadequacies in the delivery of social services, health care was among those that bore the brunt. Health costs continued to escalate just as incomes were falling, rendering it less and less accessible from the reach of many.

During these challenging circumstances, MEDICard was born on the 9th floor of Ingenieros Building in Salcedo Village, Makati. An enterprising surgeon, Dr. Nicanor D. Montoya, saw both the opportunity and need to give low- to middle-income Filipinos access to quality health care at a rate they could afford.

While many parents initially expressed misgivings on the company's vision, they realized over time that there is value and advantage in the economics of an HMO. Quickly, it also became clear that enlisting companies instead of individuals made more sense in terms of marketing. The scheme was soon expanded to appeal to company executives and middle managers, as well as the rank and file.

Expanding its reach

Just three years after it was founded, MEDICard branched out outside Manila as it opened offices in Cagayan de Oro, Cebu City, and Davao City.

There were also attempts to reach out to the ever-growing population of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) around the world and their families. Head offices were set up in Hong Kong, Dubai, and other major cities, to offer these "modern-day heroes" the peace of mind that a health plan provides. Eventually however, cases would open out of their plans, and would either leave or something more concrete and tangible, like appliances or cash.

But even then, the company's adventurous spirit has been clear: its founders and officers came mainly from the medical profession. This means that more than the nitty-gritty of finance, grant cars and attractions were continually given to annual review ... something that is still unmatched in the industry. Reviews and updates regarding terms and conditions are considered.

However, challenges remain. For one, HMOs are a yearly exercise, says MEDICard President Dr. Nicky Montoya.

"I would say that most of our clients are loyal to us; the remaining percentage would be the price-sensitive ones," he adds. "Utilization remains high and doctor's fees keep on going up. Every year, most hospitals announce an increase. Over the last ten years, there's always been a hike somewhere. These are the things we have to take into account."

There's also very little we could do, he says, about the inherently high cost of several aspects of healthcare in the Philippines.

"Practically all the technologies in our hospitals are imported. They all come from the US and Europe. Our medicines are among the most expensive in the region. We might be able to save if they're locally supplied, but everything is either imported or requires payment of royalties," he explains.

MEDICard's role

But Dr. Montoye says he'd like to think that the HMO industry continues to do its role in brightening the economy's health care prospects.

"In CALABARZON, for instance, you can see a lot of old hospitals actually expanding and growing over the past few years. It's probably because of the HMO business. Every year we promise them a good number of patients," he says.

MEDICard's latest offering, the Bella, is another attempt to reach out to more budget-conscious Filipinos by stressing the importance of investing in a health plan. It is a new and specialized health care maintenance service that covers emergency, preventive, and outpatient care for a mere P1,800 for a six-month medical coverage. There's also no age limit and no medical check-up required to qualify.

Today, some 500,000 people are covered by a MEDICard plan. Certainly, more people are more educated now when it comes to the advantages of an HMO plan. It's a far cry from MEDICard's humble beginnings 23 years ago, when recruitment of members, despite the noble purpose, was difficult and slow.

A Vision for Generations

There are some ideas that sound very obvious in hindsight, but at a time when most are having doubts, it takes a real visionary to seize the opportunity.

This is how Dr. Ricky S. Moreno, MEDICard president, regards his father, the company's founding president, Dr. Nestoro Montano.

Indeed, just after the 1986 EDSA Revolution, the concept of a health maintenance organization (HMO) was alien to most Filipinos, says the younger Dr. Moreno. Not his father, who, aside from being a surgeon, also had investments in retail, financing, mining, and even oil exploration, had always been a man of vision.

"There was definitely resistance at first," Dr. Montano admits. "The HMO concept was one to me but it was like re-inventing health care. There were doctors who were against it. And there were those who were convinced that the idea would never work."

Passing on the torch

As the eldest in a brood of four, Dr. Montano says he was "highly encouraged" to go into medicine. After majoring in Botany in the Ateneo de Cebu College of Science, he took his medicine proper in UP-Manila and eventually passed the Physician Licensure Board Exams.

Pillars he was in his mid-twenties, while choosing between applying for residency and going to the US for specialty training, Dr. Montano worked as a medical consultant for the then Bodjing MEDICard.

"I already had an inkling that he would pursue that work," he says about his father. "He's always been entrepreneurial. That's on one side of him that tended up getting. Ever since I can remember, he had always been engaged in industrial medicine and the like."

In fact, it was his older Montano's experience in running and staffing company clinics that gave him a unique glimpse into the plight of most Filipinos when it came to health care. He realized, for instance, that most of his patients had problems going to hospitals since they got out of their company clinics. Health care costs from company-sponsored facilities. And hospitalization was a privilege, not an option.

Affordable health care

His father's original idea was to find a way to provide care in Filipinos if they could just set aside a peso a day – in the mid-1980s, this was enough to buy a bucket of Coke.

"If they just forgo that extra merienda and save that money, there has to be a way for the common folks to have access to doctors and medicines," says Dr. Montano.

MEDICard was born on this pioneering and charitable vision. To form the core of the business, Dr. Montano enlisted the help of his doctor friends, most of whom are reputable practitioners from some of the country's most distinguished medical centers.

At the time, the norm for HMO reimbursement was to be subsumed under an already established insurance firm. Doing that, however, might sacrifice MEDICard's vision of providing an accessible HMO plan to more Filipinos, the company's founder believed.

"My father wanted to run it the way it should be run," Dr. Montano says.

To take care of the business side of things, the older Montano sought the help of non-physician friends. The doctors, however, continued to be the major players, something that up to today gives MEDICard a unique position in the industry.

The HMO business model outlined that of an insurance firm, but instead of targeting individuals, the company here realized that it was ultimately easier and more profitable to seek out employers and package it as a benefit.

Present situation

Unfortunately, 25 years later, Dr. Montano says he still sees the same situation afflicting the country's poor.

"A lot of Filipinos still don't know how to go to doctors," he says. "They don't know what to do, where to go, who to see, and they're afraid – of the costs, their ill-ness, and the doctors."

And so while MEDICard has undoubtedly made headways in providing health care to a previously disenfranchised segment of the population, Dr. Montano Moreno's vision for the company he founded a quarter of a century ago remains more urgent than ever.

Birth pains and humble beginnings

Continuous strive for excellence at MEDICard

WHEN Rose Alipio started in 1986 as then one-year-old MEDICard as an accountant, she was doing everything manually. Instead of electronic spreadsheets, which were not popularly available in the country for another ten years or so, she had journals and ledgers.

"It was really old-school bookkeeping," she says. "We took note of everything in our logbooks and ledgers. Electronic data processing didn't even enter our minds."

Early challenges

But such lack of technological convenience wasn't even the hardest part to the early years of the HMO industry pioneer. That it had to break new ground in the health care industry meant it necessarily had to deal with initial doubts regarding the feasibility of the concept.

"Unfortunately, the mentality for most Filipinos is still 'out of pocket,'" says Dr. Ricky Montano, MEDICard president. "When they're dealing with emergencies, their first option is always to pawn the things they own. They don't think about the future."

That said, most of the company's first challenges had to do with a lack of a working management system and streamlined processes. From underwriting to claims, from check releasing to something as mundane as issuing membership IDs, the procedures were initially tedious.

"[The issuance of] the IDs used to be delayed for a month or two because we used to have an outside contractor. The IDs have gone through a lot of transformations. We've tried thermal printing, embossing, and putting pictures, before eventually going with a data card. In the end, we found data cards all the easiest to monitor and control," says Ms. Alipio, now MEDICard's Claims & Reimbursement Head.

As the processes were not yet streamlined, accessing and double-checking files were usually a source of headache for MEDICard staff. It was hard to monitor applications because each step was handled by a different department. One of the improvements Ms. Alipio pushed was the integration of the Data Processing Department with the Underwriting Department, where she would spend the next seven years of her career in MEDICard.

Expanding its reach

At about the same time when the head office was dealing with administrative challenges and hardships, business was actually booming. By 1989, MEDICard already opened offices in Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, and Davao City – all indeed in accordance with accredited providers and accessibility.

The company's expansion needed continuous updating of systems and procedures. So in 2002, roughly the same time when Ms. Alipio was transferred to claims and reimbursement, the processes were ironed out for every facet of the business.

Systems which were the result of years of painstaking had become more or less operational, speeding up the process and drastically reducing waiting time. From having to check with ledgers just to follow up on the status of applications, answering their files to faxed spreadsheets raised the productivity of employees and translated into tremendous improvement of services to MEDICard members and applicants.

"When everything was integrated into just one system and manpower was added, that's when things really picked up speed," Ms. Alipio notes.

Faster and better service

MEDICard has now gained the reputation of paying doctors quickly. Through a special arrangement with big hospitals called express payment, she says the company is able to expedite the processing and releasing of checks.

Even with a clear system in place, though, there are times when problems arise due to incompatibility with a partner hospital's system. When this happens, management usually decides to pay in advance just to avoid the suspension, Ms. Alipio explains. If it's determined that there's been an overpayment, a recall process is set forth.

Twenty-five years after it was founded, MEDICard had long overcome the birth pains associated with, not only starting a company, but blazing the trail for a then nascent industry. Lessons are learned when it comes to the dynamic landscape of the country's HMO industry.

Over the years, however, the original philosophy of Dr. Nestoro S. Montano, founder and its first president, remains to guiding principle: to seek ways to provide a quality and affordable healthcare maintenance service to Filipinos.

Rose Alipio

MESSAGES

MY warmest greetings to MEDICard Philippines Inc., on your 25th Anniversary.

I am pleased to see MEDICard marking another milestone in the industry. We in government count on HMOs such as your organization as among our vital partners in the promotion of health care, a major thrust of our government to empower our citizenry. This promise of universal health access, as we take the occasion to look back on the services we have rendered in our respective areas, I wish you to sustain your efforts to offer big competitiveness and cost effective medical assistance to your clientele that would redound in their over-all health and well-being. May this be a meaningful anniversary for MEDICard Philippines.

As your company continues to enhance its competitiveness in supply, and excellence in our institutions, I am that we all be steadfast in observing these values. On their foundations and we the agents as one people, secure in our stability and equitable progress.

Benigno Simeon Aquino
President
Republic of the Philippines

WARM greetings to the MEDICard Philippines, Inc. and congratulations on your 25th year in the health care industry.

Twenty-five years is indeed a milestone for a health maintenance organization for it does not only describe the stability of the company, but also its unwavering commitment to provide the best quality health care services.

MEDICard Philippines, Inc. has been in the forefront of an organization devoted to providing the best quality health care services at an affordable cost. It has truly done justice to its founder's noble principle of giving importance in the health and welfare of its members more than anything else.

Meeting the challenges and granting public access to excellent health care services are commendable efforts we proudly salute MEDICard as it helps lessen the burden and ordinary Filipinos by making available preventive health care services that prevent them from serious illnesses.

I hope that you will continue to be steadfast in creating a positive impact on the lives of individuals and their families today and in the coming generations.

Again, congratulations, and more power to all of you!

Jejomar Binay
Vice President
Republic of the Philippines

HEARTFELT congratulations to MEDICard Philippines, Inc., one of the leading Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO's) in the country on the celebration of its 25th Anniversary.

Over the last 25 years, MEDICard Philippines, Inc. has been the epitome of an organization devoted to providing the best quality health care services at an affordable cost. It has truly done justice to its founder's noble principle of giving importance in the health and welfare of its members more than anything else.

Meeting the challenges and granting public access to excellent health care services are commendable efforts we proudly salute MEDICard as it helps lessen the burden and ordinary Filipinos by making available preventive health care services that prevent them from serious illnesses.

I hope that you will continue to be steadfast in creating a positive impact on the lives of individuals and their families today and in the coming generations.

Again, congratulations, and more power to all of you!

Jejomar Binay
Mayor
City of Makati

MARM greetings to the officers and members of the MEDICard Philippines, Inc. as they mark their 25th year in the healthcare industry.

Your objective of creating a better nation by providing your customers with quality health care services is commendable. May you continue to provide with cost-effective access to quality health care services. The Department of Health gives its support on your future endeavors.

Let us continue working together to provide accessible, quality and affordable health care to all in pursuit of our noble goal of Kalusugan Pangkalahatan or Universal Health Care for all Filipinos.

Congratulations and endless kayong lahat!

Dr. Enrique Ona
Secretary
Department of Health

ACROSS the globe, experts have long recognized that financial risk protection is most effectively driven by a national health insurance agency supported by public and private partners and networks. That is precisely why the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation has set stated vision: The support we give to complemented by the assistance that KMBA, development partners, and other organizations provide front do we scale up our programs, what is best for the Filipino as we have more networks of like-minded organizations working together to make this less of said of getting sick.

As MEDICard Philippines celebrates its 25th anniversary, we at PhilHealth appreciate your 25 years of pursuing our common and noble goal of financial risk protection against ill health. Moving forward, we hope to build on this shared goal. Building more to fill the gaps together and protect Filipinos in every part of the country. That is why we celebrate an organization that seeks to help and protect, we celebrate the worth of the Filipino.

Congratulations on 25 years of service.

Dr. Eduardo B Banzon
President & CEO
Philippine Health Insurance Corporation

The future of health care is now

MEDICard looks to the future beyond health care

MEDICard

Presented by Intra

A new look after 25

TO SYMBOLIZE its rebirth after 25 years of being a pioneering HMO in the Philippines, MediCard unveiled a refreshed corporate logo as part of a corporate strategy that stresses the company's brand promise of giving the best healthcare available.

"Our new branding strategy is aimed at demonstrating how MediCard is uniquely **different as an HMO run and founded by** doctors," said MediCard president Dr. Rinky Montoya.

The rebranding exercise coincided with MediCard's 25th year of bringing better value to customers. Throughout its history, MediCard has consistently adapted to the changing times. Thus, the company embarked on a rebranding to boost identity to remain relevant and up-to-date in a market environment that is becoming increasingly more knowledgeable and therefore more critical about the image that organizations are portraying.

With consumers having higher expectations than ever and a lower tolerance for any delay that is before put, Medicard aims to provide peace of mind and fulfillment to its clients, which are characterized as experiential in the hope by people has. Blue represents trust, reliability and calmness

The four tie symbols that music think. was born a single aim to convey the message to MediCard clients that they can avail of affordable medical services round the clock through its extensive doctors and medical instructions. The new logo also uses typefaces that make the brand look modern and refreshing.

The new logo also embodies MediCard's corporate culture. "We place an extremely strong emphasis on doing business the right way for both our customers and our employees. That means caring for them and treating them more as partners, being responsive, and anticipating their needs," Dr. Montoya said.

DUBBED SAME way that MEDICard runs the country's premier HMO company, it continues to strike out in new directions and ventures that are changing the face of the industry that it practically started shaping 25 years ago.

As far as traditional business goes, MEDICard President Dr. Nicky Montoya says there remains a lot of room for new membership. As of September last year, only three million people are covered by health plans. When you consider the country's population of nearly 100 million, this figure represents a measly one.

The number is even more disappointing compared to the staggering volume of cellphone owners in the country, pegged at 86 million -- a sign that Filipinos indeed prefer investing in tangible objects rather than a health plan for them and their family.

"We really need to promote more expansion of the population. As of now, 90 to 95 percent of our portfolio are corporate accounts," he explains.

Innovations

One such effort is the SuperB, a product specifically designed to make a MEDICard plan even more affordable. For P1,000 for a six-month medical coverage (which translates to roughly P70 a day), a member can enjoy a specialized health care implementation service that covers emergency, preventive, and outpatient care.

Specifically, members get unlimited free consultations with primary care physicians and specialists like pediatricians, medical internists, and obstetricians in all MEDICard clinics. (No additional Preventive Basic Package services which includes CBC, urinalysis, fecalysis, chest X-ray, and physical exam, typically costs P1,500 in private hospitals. In other words, the value for money here is almost astronomic.

Aside from the regular plans, MEDICard also offers value-added services aimed to broaden its definition of a traditional health care coverage. In that regard, the medical background of its leadership and officers definitely bring an advantage.

Going non-traditional

"One of our goals is to supplement to the traditional HMO business," says Dr Montoya.

"We try to offer specialties that no other clinic is offering, or services that are just starting to become popular here," he says. "For instance, there's our Womens-some biopsy clinic. We envision it to be the first outpatient breast clinic in the country, where members can avail of the procedure the way Hmos allows facilities to be done during lunch breaks."

Meanwhile, the increase in lifestyle-related diseases, such as diabetes, has prompted more and more people to seek a more healthy lifestyle. Dr. Montoya notes that one in every 1,000 Filipinos today are diagnosed with a kind of cancer, a direct manifestation of the unhealthy lifestyles of most people.

To that end, led to the creation of the MEDICard Lifestyle Center, which targets those who wish to have a "doable and practical" approach to wellness. Situated in a posh building in the corner of Ilaya de Roxas and Gil Puyat Avenues in Makati City, the center has state-of-the-art dermatology and fitness facilities, eye and colorectal center, hormone replacement therapy clinic, dental clinic, and a yoga center. It also houses Lavazza Coffee and Bagobird, an authentic organic restaurant.

"Most illnesses are caused by stress so wellness is absolutely necessary to keep disease away," says Luis Montoya, MEDICard senior vice president for special projects.

"The Center is designed to give our members and even non-members a venue for managing their health and well-being. A lot of today's diseases are lifestyle related - poor diet, lack of exercises. That's why we're encouraging more physical activity. We'd also like to give tips on what food to eat because a balanced diet is key to health and wellness," he says.

Experts onboard

A board of experts and other health professionals such as nutritionists and dietitians to guide members in their activities and answer questions from clients. At any given time, there will be as many as 20 to 25 doctors at the MEDICard Lifestyle Center. But more importantly, it can be included on top of the regular plan, to emphasize that it supplements a regular health coverage.

Considering their new ventures, MEDICard appears to be going beyond the traditional platform of HMOs. However, in the case of the Lifestyle Center, Dr. Montoya says he hopes to "finally see the notion that wellness is only for the rich." And an even when it branches out, the hmos that MEDICard is carving still nowhere around the main hmos principle: affordable health care for every Filipino.

Beyond buzz words, MediCard stands for CSR

LOMI: before the term "corporate social responsibility" or CSR has become a buzzword in the local scene, MediCard has already begun its tasks somewhere in the arteries on the wider community and other stakeholders beyond its legal responsibilities.

For the people behind the vision to offer quality healthcare in Filipinos as affordable as cutting aside P1 a day, CSR is not just doing acts of philanthropy, but a matter of confronting the reality in healthcare that leaves many Filipinos clueless.

"With the high cost of health care and misdiagnosis in the country today, majority of Filipino families with average earnings could hardly afford even a simple prescribed remedy to common health problems. Those living below the average income bracket are in much worse situations, as they hardly see a doctor and oftentimes just self-prescription or ignoring the ailment entirely until it becomes severe.

History of giving back

Throughout its 25 years of existence, the company has been embedded CSR into its corporate DNA... Some medical missions in several underprivileged communities to bring free eyeglasses, quite of innovation rarer in the corporate citizenship arena.

When it celebrated its 12th anniversary the company did away with mounting a lavish party and instead sponsored a free clinic in Pandacan. Dr. Damon Filipinas, a temporary shelter for abandoned, neglected and abused children, to attend to the children's medical needs.

MediCard also brought a groundbreaking initiative dubbed as "Libreng Gamutan" (free medical assistance) closer to the poor when it marked its 17th anniversary. The extensive medical assistance program was a collaboration with the non-governmental organization Philippine Institute for Social Progress (PISP), and beneficiaries more than 3000 residents in Tanauan, Batangas in Taguig City who underwent medical treatments. With the key objective of determining the illnesses that are prevalent in the area, MediCard developed a comprehensive health management plan designed to address its adopted community's health concerns.

Libreng Gamutan is a novel concept as it involved continuous follow up visits (at least two or three times a year) to ensure that medical advice given are strictly followed by patients. "We continuously monitored the beneficiaries' health conditions because in most instances, medications are not properly observed due to financial reasons. That is why we are thankful for the assistance of some pharmaceutical companies who shared their products with the needy through this initiative," said Luis Montoya, MediCard Philippines, business vice president for special projects.

Running for health

While no longer a manager of outreach programs, the company has taken its corporate citizenship further by formally establishing the MediCard Foundation.

The foundation will serve as the CSR arm of the company and its attitude in going beyond the business of being one of the country's leading health maintenance organizations (HMO) companies.

"The company has been growing very well so the idea thing we can do is to try to touch as many lives as we can," said Mr. Montoya.

MediCard will stage its first-ever MEDIRun on May 19, 2012 at the Bonifacio Global City. The one-day event will showcase challenging races, as well as free or discounted medical services to benefit running enthusiasts and their families.

"The health benefits of running cannot be emphasized enough. Aside from benefiting the cardiovascular system, running also offers a great and healthy alternative to socialize and bond with friends and family. Through MEDIRun, we aim to get as many people into the running habit and consequently help make positive changes in their lives," said MediCard president Dr. Rinky L. Montoya.

Aside from prizes, participants will receive pre-race check up vouchers that entitle them to special rates for select run-related tests in MediCard clinics. These include free cholesterol screening, free vital parameter test, free check-up with a primary care physician, 30 percent discount on treadmill stress tests, and 20 percent discount on lipid profiling. Toddlers who will join the 300 meter toddler and kiddie dash runs also get a free complete blood exam test.

Healthy nation

Beyond giving back, MediCard plans to integrate CSR into its business in the future.

"Maybe we can have our own hospital one day" said Dr. Montoya.

Meanwhile, the Montoya brothers continue to work on building a wider network to give MediCard members access to more hospitals. The company has also been investing in technology to enhance its services, such as providing members with easily accessible electronic medical records.

"That's really the role of an HMO, giving access to more people to healthcare," said Dr. Montoya. "We are building a partnership in healthcare and we want to continue to empower our members."

Beyond being a byword, MediCard hopes to become a lasting partner of Filipinos in building a better, healthier nation.

One-legged cowboy realizes dream–to stand on two feet

DARBOANGA CITY—Jerry Sand is a one-legged cowboy no more.

Sand, who lost his left leg during an alleged attack in Lantican, Basilan, some 20 years ago, is getting a prosthetic leg from the Yin Chi Foundation with the help of former accusers-at-bar Climaco.

"I never expected to walk like a normal person again," said Sand, 37. "Every month, I thought I lost hope of having a second leg again."

Poverty, Sand said, had made walking on two legs merely a dream.

"I am just a poor farmer, who could hardly sustain my family's needs. I was told a prosthetic is very expensive," Sand told the business as he patiently waited for the second leg taking shape at the Yin Chi Foundation's Jaipur Foot Prosthesis Manufacturing Center at the Zamboanga City Medical Center.

Sand was obviously overwhelmed by the offer. While the artificial leg was being formed by prosthetic technicians led by Amal Araque and volunteer Nelly Rico, a former driver who lost his feet due to Buerger's disease (the chronic inflammation of arteries and veins), Sand watched keenly and didn't mind waiting at the Center for almost two hours, afraid to miss anything.

"I didn't want to blink or leave the venue," he said.

Sand actually wept when told that an artificial leg "made of PVC" would be given to him, said Dr. Arzon Mari Lim of Yin Chi Foundation.

"I laughed when he asked me several times if I was joking," Lim said. "He confided that there had been many promises to the poor [but none of them materialized], so he could not believe what I told him."

"People like Jerry deserve real help and support," said Climaco, who had referred Sand's story to the Inquirer.

In a previous Inquirer story, Sand said that the lower limb lost by his best friend Armando had served as his legs when he went around the rice farm where he has been working since last month. Without the animal, he would have to walk three to four kilometers to work and back using only a wooden crutch.

"It takes me four hours one way," he said.

With the artificial leg, walking the same stretch would take him only seven minutes, Sand said.

Of course, Lim pointed out, it would take Sand some time before he could adjust to his new leg.

WITH his new prosthetic leg, Jerry Sand learns how to walk again.

Not Sand apparently doesn't mind. "I am very grateful to Sir Climaco [for] the patience he had in me and for his endless encouragement," he said. He also expressed thanks to the Inquirer for featuring him, the Yin Chi Foundation, "the others and especially our Almighty for answering my heart's prayer."

Aelle Mijeski, Inquirer Mindanao

Chinese to be taught in public high schools

By Miko Calleja

PUBLIC school students and their academic are learning to speak more foreign languages, especially with the inclusion this year of Chinese, as part of the Department of Education's program to bring widely used languages into the secondary education curriculum.

The program, called Special Program in Foreign Language (SPFL), was started in 2009 in selected public elementary schools where students learned Spanish, French and Japanese.

Last year, German was added to the list.

The DepEd's inclusion in the program of a course on the Chinese language comes in the wake of the country's dispute with China over Panatag Shoal, also internationally known as Scarborough Shoal.

"We are not preparing for a Chinese invasion," DepEd public information officer Kenneth Tiando said in jest.

The DepEd had been planning to include Chinese in the program even before the tension between China and the Philippines escalated, Tiando said. This will be introduced in the third and fourth years.

Education Secretary Armin Luistro said in a statement the addition of program was expected to further improve the capability of public school teachers to learn and teach a second or a foreign language.

"This is also in line with the thrust of K to 12 which is to prepare our future workforce for the global arena," Luistro said.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
OPINION

Let's get to work

EDITORIAL

THE PHILIPPINES got practically everything right when it hosted the 45th Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank two weeks ago. Things worked so well that many delegates almost forgot that the event was being hosted by a developing nation more known for mishaps than the right moves.

For fear important days, it seemed that the government was able to pull everything off in an effortless manner.

The special ADB lanes for delegates at the airports worked, transportation in between venues (in the form of clean, air-conditioned shuttle buses) were upbeat, and vehicular traffic in the metropolis was manageable, volume notwithstanding. Even the Internet service at the newly refurbished Philippine International Convention Center was fast and reliable.

In those crucial days, certain areas in the Philippines were like ultra-efficient Singapore (including the humidity), but we did it with more warmth and it genuinely welcoming attitude.

The international media even lent us a helping hand when CNN aired a weeklong series on the Philippines, while the government launched its new tourism campaign on the same network simultaneously.

Never mind that the government had to erect huge billboards in an apparent (but exasperating) effort to hide the disasters in Pasay City from the delegates' eyes. We had to put our best foot forward, and that we did.

The Aquino administration pulled off a dramatic "rising-to-the-occasion" act. Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima had put it. Now if only it would apply the same mental framework it used so effectively to hosting the ADB event to move the broader economy forward.

The administration claims that it is doing all it can to grow the economy, but many economists would disagree. It has been moving at a snail's pace on issues, and certain initiatives, like the oil industry deregulation drive, have clearly taken the lion's share of President Aquino's political capital. But in going forward, it would help Malacañang to also remember that its reformist would rest by be nominated beyond 2016 if it helps ensure that PH ipinos are well fed, clothed and schooled. For the people to stick to the President's "Daang Matuwid" beyond his term, that path has to be concretized, not only through a corruption-free system, but also through paved highways, gleaming international airports, and power infrastructure that provide cheaper electricity—all of which help generate jobs and put food on the table.

For that country perennially "on the verge of takeoff" to finally take-off, the administration has to make its need for the four-day ADB event stretch to four years. Nowhere is this more important than in the much touted Public-Private Partnership program, about which would-be investors have grown weary listening to government officials talk. The fact is that to date, the administration has bid out only one of the 10 projects it promised investors. And at P4 billion, the only project to get off the ground so far is considered relatively small property play given the Philippines' need for massive investments to get the economy to move faster.

To this end, the administration should also use yet another lesson learned from the ADB annual meeting, where the Philippines' largest corporations came together and contributed the funds that the state did not have. With investment rules long having been put in place, the government should get out of the way and let the private sector do what it does best: allocate capital to where it is needed most—not crumbling infrastructure.

Like it or not, the fundamentals flowing into the country today is due, to a large degree, to the extremely low interest rates implemented by the West in its bid to fight off the global financial crisis. The things our government officials are crowing about, like low bond interest rates and a strong peso, are due more to global liquidity and less on our own merits. The flow will reverse at some point, and it will be then that the men will be separated from the boys, so to speak.

We have to work fast because global liquidity will not remain favorable to the Philippines forever.

Indeed, when we let our minds to realizing things work, even *force majeure* events like natural calamities may away. Even the eye-popping Moro-Bayanni-Claudine airport razzle—potentially embarrassing for a country hosting 4,500 international ADB delegates—chose to happen one day later.

So let's get to work.

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VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"THEY WILL force their servants into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks." proclaims a pruning rubber framing New York's third tower initiative in the United Nations. "Nations will not take up sword against nations." Those lines are from the graphed hands.

They're reflected on a statue that dominates the UN park across from Tudor City. Sculpted by Evgeny Vuchetich, it depicts a man disarming a lead sword with a hammer. "Never again will they train for war," the prophet Micah wrote.

Those hopes seemed elusive as ever this week. The Taliban fanned war in Afghanistan and Pakistan. North Korea and Iran forge ahead for a nuclear trigger.

South Sudan, which has oil wells, barely hurdles Sudan, which straddles pipelines and refineries. Instead of becoming a glue, oil is a spreading virus. Since New Year's Day, it has left 50 dead, missiles bombers blew up 16 people, killing to a casualty list of 9,000 in over 11 months. "May the fresh Spring become a flatbed with lot?" ask observers.

"The only conflict, not in this map, is the intensifying threat to Obama vs. Bibi Summary incident war," a late night chose wisecrack says.

Or the tension between China and the Philippines over Scarborough Shoal? The name Scarborough comes from an 1805 survey. It was made aboard the merchant ship Scarborough, a ship sail a Panang Head or Sajo de Mazinbo. The Chinese have named it Huangyan Island. Both the Philippines and China claim ownership save it.

Beijing cites history. Bagging a Pyrrhic victory (22:9 Sept. Manila claims on geography. The reefs are about 123 miles (198 kilometers) west of Subic Bay—and 550 miles from China.

There are rich fishing grounds where, between 1998 and 2003, the Philippines arrested Chinese fishermen's catching endangered and protected species using banned methods.

The shoal is well within the 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) that the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos) defines, the Philippine states. Not valid, replies Beijing whose claims about the EEZ of other Asian countries.

Woman herded when China announced plans to develop tourist facilities in Paracel Islands. Possibly taken note by Chinese troops in 1974, Vietnam continues to claim the Paracels. Chinese and Vietnamese hackers attacked each other's websites last year, as Filipino and Chinese hackers did in 2012.

China jacked up the number of its ships in the shoal, from 14 to 32. The Philippines keeps three: a Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources vessel and a coast guard rescue ship.

China's foreign ministry demanded that its boats "be left alone to go about their normal activities." But Philippine vessels were actors—out of our own accord" bits, said Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario. Manila would seek instead a rules-based approach to all disputes in accordance with the Unclos.

In stark contrast, "rest talk, if aware, is all the rage in China," Patrick Boehler, reporting Carp's Iranian Counterspy notes. "There are times our people in serious public situations seriously advocating war" were those notes—and potential self-boycotts.

China has "made all preparations to respond to any escalation," the foreign ministry warned. Controlled media clobber the Philippines imporis of Philippine bananas and travel of Chinese tourists to the Philippines are squeezed.

China reels from the Bo Gai scandal and its voice is to a decade transition years as the United States plunges into elections. "There will be two elephants in the same room." Hone the new US president "manages emergent China will have global repercussions," write Kenneth Lieberthal, Joshua Meltzer and Jonathan Pollack of the think tank Brookings.

Threats

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE EXCHANGE of words between Channel 5 and the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) has been very interesting. It started when the MTRCB did its duties to suspend "TV," the public affairs show hosted by Sally Jessie and Ben Tulfo, for 20 days. MTRCB imposed the sanction because of the threats made by the brothers in that program against Commissioner and Chairman Eugenio for the latter to resign.

The Tulfo brothers have already been invited out a show-day suspension by Channel 5, says TV5 lawyer Jay Tolosa. "What else is there for the government to resolve? A preventive suspension is not in order. The continued broadcast of the program would constitute a danger to the viewing public. There is no such danger... (The MTRCB's ruling) encourages irresponsibility and sets a on a path that would threaten the independence and freedom of the broadcast industry."

Not at all, says MTRCB head Grace Poe Llamanzares. "I think it's rather clear that the MTRCB has no intention over all publicly exhibited materials on television as long as it's not straight news. It's the only exemption—not public affairs, not even entertainment shows."

The station itself categorized "TV" as a public affairs program. In this case, the brothers used the program to air their personal grievances. That is not for the benefit of the public. So huge does this do it to a certain extent, but at the very least there is no suppression of the viewing people."

As a rule, I don't like censorship, and it's interesting that although the MTRCB no longer functions as a censorship board—it is now largely a classificatory one—its officials continue to be referred to as "the censors," as seen in newspaper articles and radio-TV broadcasts. But whatever you call it, censorship or regulation, I'd rather the MTRCB erred on the side of liberalism. Certainly, I'd rather the MTRCB left much of the regulation to the media outlets themselves. That is to particularly on all sex and violence. Those are dangerous waters to tread. That was shown in the past by Manding Moreno and Henrietta Mendez, both of whom continued epically to grasp the MTRCB as representative of being an inquisitorial figure.

That is to as a rule, but that rule doesn't apply here, for a couple of reasons.

The first is that the current MTRCB situation overlaps of its statutory past. It has been said that journalists are capricious, neither prone nor moralistic. Especially about sex and politics, it has been fairly publicists in its judgments in those respects. I don't know that it has given an "R" to a movie yet, and certainly I don't know that it has interfered in the politics of TV shows, whether straight news or opinion. The individual TV outfits have been far more censoring and censoring disguised or patent, than the MTRCB.

The second, and far more importantly is that the transgression is grave. It has nothing to do with politics, whatsoever with ethics. It has nothing to do with opinion, it has to do with decency. It has nothing to do with partisanship, it has to do with good manners and right conduct. Commissioner herself says "TV" has been the subject of several complaints in the past. She has asked to meet with the show's producers and hosts, but despite their repeated promises to appear, they have not done so. And now this.

The Tulfo brothers' excuse is that they put out their story in the form of interviews. After all, it was another brother of theirs who had been at the receiving end of a beating, and they were hurting sore. That is no excuse at all. They had no business being there to interview or to be seen with. They should have gone to a temporary leave of absence before they went on a temporary leave of their senses. They know they had a deeply personal stake in it, they knew they could not possibly be objective about it. That is not a recipe for public service, that is a recipe for public disservice. Since it was unlikely they would leave on their own, the MTRCB, or Channel 5 should have asked them to do so.

I read the transcripts of the brothers' admissions, one challenging hostages to a birthday, another warning the people they had bribed not to show at the airport to mull or any public place, will another advising the people to just stay at home and stay healthy. That's not public service, that's private malice. That's not just emotional excuse, that is journalistic thuggery. That's not rash toughness, that's just weak. Point of order: there is no such thing as a free lance argument, everyone always finds the balls after the fact.

Here was that display of bad manners and wrong conduct any different from what happened to Jessica Soho, when a group jumping up on her and beating her black and blue? Well, at least the hooligans merely encouraged their friends to go along with them, or indeed they didn't have to encourage them at all, they voluntarily and spontaneously. The Tulfos encouraged media to gang up, for example, or send them to inflict that sorts of mayhem. Oh, yes, mayhem. Words, particularly when amplified a million times by the power of TV, break bones as much as sticks and stones.

The point of public service programs is to curb violence, not tempt. The point of public service programs is to put her in the hours of the shadow, not to put her to the heart of the public. So, the MTRCB's 20-day preventive suspension of "TV" does not threaten freedom of the press, it secures it. It had been threatened by journalists, broadcast or print, who try to use TV, radio, or newspaper to carry out naked vendetta. Run a government agency trying to remind them of what their profession calls for. Tulfo and TV are particularly powerful because of their reach and immediacy. Without much power comes much responsibility.

That applies as much to Spiderman as to other bugs.

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VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

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Could China's sanctions choke us?

NO FREE LUNCH

Clarito F. Mahilo

ONE HUNDRED fifty container loads of Philippine bananas are being left to rot in the Chinese ports of Dalian, Shanghai and Xingang, according to reports that came over the weekend. Our own government officials have been quick to play down any link between the halting of the banana shipments and the ongoing tension in the Panatag Shoal. But even if there wasn't such a link before, who would believe there wouldn't be one now?

Earlier, reports said that travel agencies in China have suspended tours to the Philippines. The ban may of course be seen in two ways. One may look at it as a deliberate government move—whether or not instructed by the Chinese government—to send panicked threats to their safety in the midst of rallies being held here against China. On one note see it as an aggressive economic sanction to force the Philippines to back out from its territorial claim in the Panatag Shoal dispute. Fine. Just can it get for us if it decides to unleash its full economic arsenal on us, and be even more than it is now?

Let's look at the numbers, shall we? The most obvious one is trade. Last year we recorded $6.004 billion worth of merchandise exports to China, representing 12.7 percent of our total exports and placing third behind Japan and the United States. Our imports from China were slightly less, at $6.268 billion, giving us a trade shortfall of $264 million [yes, we are among the few countries in the neighborhood selling more to China than buying from them]. Incidentally, our own official statistics above, as recorded by the Bureau of Customs, place total trade with China (exports plus imports) at $12.15 billion. But guess what, Chinese data from its General Administration of Customs place total trade at $32.25 billion! This nearly 1-to-3 discrepancy in our trade data graphically shows the extent of smuggling to our trade with China, both ways. Clearly, we must take our own trade data with China with a grain of salt. The real extent of our bilateral trade is far more than what our own official trade statistics would tell us.

What if China halts many of all Philippine goods entry to market? Based on 2011 figures, we stand to forego $6.1 billion of export earnings from China... or more than twice the value of exports to the higher Chinese figures that count the smuggled goods as well. We would need to find a way to sell all of that elsewhere to make up for the loss. If that lost income is split evenly among all Filipinos, it would be as if 170,000 was taken out of every Filipino's pocket. If China likewise stopped the export of its goods to the Philippines, then we would also be deprived of $6.1 billion worth of imported Chinese goods...or again more likely, more since that amount—which we would then have to source from other countries—is really bought from our neighbors or elsewhere. As many of those are vital raw materials, its industries would have to slow down somewhat, but what if it completely stops selling as what we have normally have importing from it? Both its exports to us being a tiny 0.9 percent of its overall exports (based on its data), it would seem that the fate of the Philippine market would hardly make a dent on its economy.

Admittedly, what would be a big loss to us would be a mere net sting to the Chinese. But then our domestic producers and their workers would be happy to keep those competing cheap Chinese goods locked.

What about overseas Filipino workers in China? The bulk of them would be in Hong Kong, comprising some 120,000 workers, and if they all had to suddenly go home as a result of an exodus of conflict, then we would have a major short-term problem. But our legendary resilience as a people should get us through that. Many of those workers abroad, we should be able to find alternative employment for them eventually.

And then there are private Chinese investments and government loans, including those of the Chinese Development Bank. Projects may end up being aborted altogether, including the railway project to Clark, enhancements to the Caticlan multipurpose hydro facility, and several others. Other donors and investors are bound to pick them up, as it would not be a loss altogether, but just a problematic delay in implementation. Still, we could expect some not-too-minor disruptions.

What if Chinese tourists were completely kept away from the Philippines? Based on last year's figures, we would be losing around 250,000 tourists, including not just a little more than 4 percent of the total number of our visitors last year. The Department of Tourism is confident that we should be able to easily recover that tourist traffic from elsewhere...and it would be the Chinese tourists' loss to miss out on all the fun that we have more of, here in the Philippines. What if China decides to also keep our own tourists out? Well, that would be all right too as there are a lot more fun things to do than climb the Great Wall, right here at home...plus we'd get to keep the foreign exchange in the country.

Could economic sanctions from China choke us? Not really. A dog bite need not be fatal.

• • •

E-mail: clarito.fmahilo@gmail.com

Valuing mothers

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FOR Mother's Day, my family took advantage of an invitation issued by Sandra and Andrew Mangun to partake of lunch in their restaurant, 32/66 in Malate.

At the end of the meal, the servers staff handed me a bag of "goodies" from the magazine Good Housekeeping and a gift box from Nestlé which contained two milk cartons, one of them low-fat milk. The children giving out goodies on behalf of IDS Pharmaceuticals made all mothers being treated to a meal on their special day feel overseen special.

On the way back, my son and his fiancée regaled me with stories of the antics of a Labrador puppy they had recently adopted, indicating to me that the puppy was the reason behind a certain pet pregnancy and bears a child.

Afterwards, we visited Loyola Memorial Park to lay flowers on the graves of my mother and of my sister Beaning, our way of greeting them. I hope Mother's Day, one I gather, is meant to be like Christmas in Quezon City for my former House de Mga Abogadas. There we happily met again with Ivin Ming Sison, whose daughter Mayang is married to my cousin Ramon Bernal. Despite having 13 children of her own, Lola Ming has opened her life story and her generous heart to Ramon's children, and our grandchildren like a long-lost friend, or a long-missed grandmother. Together with two other children, my Tito Chel Asuncion and Tita Ming Jimenez, my friend Mina, said the Rotary and Interact Club of Quezon City will be holding a Mother's Day which has been with the family for decades. The day ended with a lesson on how motherhood never ends, how maternal caring continues even beyond the grave, and how mothering can take myriad forms and a range of relations.

INDEED, Filipinos love their mamas.

A lifestyle feature in this paper on Mother's Day introduced the mother of the redoubtable Tulfo brothers, who are well-known for their macho swagger and their daring to take on even the powerful and violent. And though their father was an army colonel, the interview made clear from where the brothers got their gumption. Where any brother proved too much assertive or aggressive in the name of machismo, his mother was there to remind him of his place.

Another feature on Mother's Day introduced us to Cardinal Tolentino's mother, who was described as a "tough cookie" who had to be tough in order to raise her children. Her son, the cardinal, said that she was the one who taught him to be strong, to be able to stand up for himself, and to be able to take care of himself.

Even the Mother's Day issue of Time magazine featured a mother who was a tough cookie, Amy Chua, who wrote the controversial book "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother" and who has been described as a "helicopter mom" who hovers over her children's every move.

Mothers are tough, and they have to be tough in order to be able to raise children in a world that is not always kind to children, and in which children are not always kind to their mothers.

Mothers have to be tough in order to be able to deal with the many challenges that children present, from the time they are in the womb to the time they are in their own adulthood. Mothers have to be tough in order to be able to deal with the many challenges that children present, from the time they are in the womb to the time they are in their own adulthood.

Civil case vs 'diplomat-rapist'

LETTERS

AFTER THE dismissal of the rape case against a Panamanian holding a diplomatic passport, a senator urged the victim to just file a civil case for damages. As there is no immunity in civil cases, that may seem like the next best thing. The diplomatic issue is a childish one which may not be resolved in our foreseeable future.

But there's a problem. If a civil case for moral and exemplary damages since he filed, where is the victim going to get the money for filing docket fees (her court suit in the amount of 'economic' losses? For instance, a date for damages in the said amount of P10 million requires payment of filing docket fees amounting to no less than P200,000 computed currently at P20,000 per P1 million). Will the solon allow his "pork barrel" to be tapped (see, given the humble beginnings of the victim)? Be that as it may, there it is at once for everyone to see: the victim, after suffering indescribable injury has to bear the added burden of paying for the cost of seeking judicial redress of her grievance!

Litigate as a pauper? The new amendments to the law exempting "paupers" from judicial docket fees have made it almost impossible for anyone to avail of its benefits. Where before it was enough to show that the litigant is indigent, it is now required that all the members of his immediate family or also similarly situated. Thus, if he happens to have siblings who are employed or earn at least P25,000 a month, or own real property worth at least P500,000, he is disqualified outright. It is a patently bad law. Perhaps, the senators will find time to reevaluate or, at a bare least and have that law restored and amended.

Come to think of it, the sheer magnitude of the current judicial fees has become a sort of unconscionable restraint to litigants to send big as an insurance against being sued! That is exactly the dilemma being faced by victims of injustice made to date (mostly) who, after suffering their hard-earned money in arrearages, suddenly find themselves unable to pay the high cost of filing cases to recover what they lost. And that could result in something worse: helpless and desperate, they could take the law into their own hands! Something has got to be done to correct this thankless injustice.

On a happier note, it is a good thing Justice Secretary Leila de Lima has finally seen fit to scrap her own department circular requiring payment of filing fees in the prosecution of criminal cases. Those exactions were, to say the least, preposterous. We are probably the only country in the world that puts a price tag on its citizens' exercise of their right to demand punishment for crimes. We have been writing about that circular as "legalized extortion". Prosecutors, I/RG-07?, enforced during the case of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez. The remuneration has taken quite a long time coming, but it is a welcome relief nevertheless.

—STEPHEN L. MONSANTO, Monsanto Law Office, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, lawyer_lim@ymail.com

'Sino-faking' PH poverty with billboards

I WAS not surprised at all that the government built a fleet of colorful billboards, ostensibly promoting tourism, on the bridge along the highway that runs from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to the Philippine International Convention Center, where the Asian Development Bank held the 45th annual meeting of its board of governors. Indeed, public officials least always have to shout—say, somehow—for hiding anything that others may consider an eyesore.

That is precisely what the present Aquino administration has never been doing. If with a slight exception, I mean, unlike his predecessors, President Aquino is never content with simply showing and telling what supposedly acts of compassion, big or small, that continue enshrined under his watch. He also needs to shout his own beans, denouncing everything that may mis-embellish under the previous regime. The pre-caffeine bomb blasts, so to speak.

The pronounced misuse of the ADB to wipe out poverty across the globe, it is downright ironic, nevertheless, that by shoving from the ADB view the Philippines' claims, the government hides the latest semblance of poverty in these parts. So doing, it also quickly seeks to deprive those families of their very rights to make the whole world see that they are being neglected.

Chances are, many other poor souls, countrymen have been doing the same thing every time ADB representatives visit them, isn't proud, or tenacious one of the series double-take of mine? It is no wonder, then, that the ADB officials have been quite relentless keep saying that the ADB has in fact been globalizing, rather than intensifying, the scourge of poverty in our times. But that is not necessarily the point. My point is, P-Noy's lapdogs have quite clearly exhibited the self-same hypocrisy by vigorously defending the ADB's decision to pull the plug on the lingering Philippine poverty. Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang was quick to explode that any country with at a little finding-up before a press audience, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima's pedagogic disdainful dean Francis Tolentino said nothing is wrong with broadening our surroundings. Poor! But so there I must—Ricky Carandang's press secretary Secretary Sonny Coloma was quick to explode that any country with at a little finding-up before a press audience, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima's pedagogic disdainful dean Francis Tolentino said nothing is wrong with broadening our surroundings. Poor! But so there I must—

—RODEL FERMIL, rodelcesar2004@yahoo.com

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'Makapili'-approach

FROM LAPU-LAPU to Jose Rizal, Philippine history is replete with people who fought against overwhelming odds and won. Of course, we were not consulted in the Spanish and Amerikan occupied by the Japanese and subjugated by a dozen-grown dictators. Barely years in the aftermath of Marcos' dominion and, despite the awesome might of our oppressors, we still prevailed in the end.

Thus, it is disheartening for Inquirer's Sigrid Bathan to be so consider with his criticism about our row with China over the Scarborough Shoal. Dammit, 9/11 123 Being a political pleasure during martial law, he should know better than to capitulate to a bully as a former ambassador to Greece, he should know to always put the interest of country over party. Instead of offering constructive insights on the dispute, however, he takes the side of China and even conveniently forgets to mention that there were already incidents, including video footage, that the Chinese fishing vessels were engaged in illegal fishing. Hardly harassing innocent Chinese fishermen as our writers, not wanting there was engaged in a legitimate police action.

As far as hitting at blame on President Aquino for the souring of our relationship with China, Sigrid should know that it takes two to tango. Take three for arguments. Thus, P-Noy had command responsibility for the Luneta hostage crisis, but was it not the failings of the previous administration's ombudsman to properly handle the case out of St. Jude Belmonte Mendoza that led to the fiasco? Furthermore, how would it bear on the officials of the previous government be prosecuted when they have a bituminous Supreme Court so-in-so? And as for instilling nationalism and from China, supremacist should certainly detract presidency after the grab-ration 9009-216 and Scarborough projects under Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. If anything, some overseas programs from China were undertaken not to curb poverty (see our country by increasing foreign debt), but instead of curbing poverty and co-opting our top officials. With those programs aborted, it is any wonder that China is engaging in more direct action by moving into our territory and subscribing in kind via our national resources?

It remains to be seen how this dispute will play out, but instead of belittling the facility of deploying our single battleship against the might of the Chinese navy, our creative economic power, admittedly more by accommodation, necessary national solidarity regarding this issue should supersede sectarianism politicking interests. A Makapili like approach, pointing the finger at your own countryman, is certainly not warranted.

—FELIMON DELARIARTE, felidelarte@yahoo.com

In defense of Uncle Jovy

I CALL Sen. Jinkee S. Salonga "uncle." My late mother of milk at my bottle ranked from the bosom of late Tallada first cousin, Uncle Jovy's you, Lolo Jovy. They lived in the same subdivision in San Miguel, Bulig, which I spent my carefree youth on a student of Rizal High (Uncle's alma mater also) and as a young lawyer.

He was registered on May 7 as facing arrest, linked for violating the separate and Hernandez' illnesses. I remember, as an eighth-grader, at EC, by style. I e-mailed senate Sotto to ask what it was all about and e-mailed back: "Inutil-comelec, sir-ry to abate you, but this is a nuisance 'lechal' from a disgruntled Dr Bonifacio Ilagan."

Having seen scores pictures of my kind—whom one goes in a frantic being and goes out a heart—from where I was a late student, I have been for genetic treatment of all dreariness. Inviting friends now that haunts his departure for a better world. The "Pro-Arts Bard?" statement should have made an effort to vividly relieve he is, given the news blackout all this time on him. Convenient should have stated in embarrassing grave Uncle's health, accomplishments and from that have redounded to the best interests of the country's people, not to mention that the Degree state. Suddenly the press was all over him like TV coverage his arrest.

That Monday, I was in the police precinct in Sta Ana as this action who had spent the night there. The genuine news helpful, one press, for the regular police reporting with what was left of the streets as an underground screening station there. Where we live in Pateros, Makati, some days there are four orders on the arrest. And when one reads this (about 5 million families) is interesting nothing to say bad lives... as paraphrase John F. Kennedy—lead lenses help the many who are poor in our society or we cannot save the few who are rich.

—RENE A.V. SAGUISAG, rsaguisag@gmail.com

Pinoy workers in China not harassed, says Binay

By Jerome C. Aning

VICE PRESIDENT Jejomar Binay said yesterday that Filipino workers in China are not being harassed despite the territorial dispute between China and the Philippines over Scarborough Shoal.

"We have not received any news about any [overseas Filipino worker] being maltreated in China," Binay said in a statement. "I believe that the ensuing dispute will not be a reason for this to happen," Binay added in reports the Philippine Navy withdrew its ships from the area.

International law

Binay, who is also presidential adviser on Filipino migrant workers' affairs, said he was confident China and the Philippines would achieve a "peaceful and diplomatic solution" to the dispute.

He reiterated the Philippines stand that all conflicting territorial claims in the South China Sea should be settled in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

"I am one with President Aquino in the belief that both countries can agree to a peaceful and diplomatic solution," Binay said. "The Philippines and China both have a stake in ensuring peace, stability and economic development in the region," he said.

The Vice President also said the Chinese Embassy was side-preventing its countrymen who were issued a travel advisory ahead of protests by Filipinos at Chinese embassies around the world on May 11.

Sobriety

"We need to have sobriety," Binay said. "It's but natural that these embassy issue a statement and tell their tourists to be careful because a rally is going to take place. It's also natural that they tell their countrymen who are planning to go to think twice before going," he said.

The Vice President advised against reacting to statements coming from unofficial sources. "It's difficult because we have many things that test our nerves for the official positions of the countries involved," Binay said.

"I think that a report came out that they're preparing for war but they [denied] it immediately. Is saying this is not their official word?" Binay said.

Aquino welcomes China ban on fishing in Scarborough Shoal

From page A1

had damaged the environment in those waters.

But Fisheries Secretary Alexander Alcala said that the country does not recognize Chinese prohibition "as portions of the ban encompass our exclusive economic zone."

"However, the President has directed that, in view of the accelerated depletion of our marine resources, it would be advisable for us to issue our own fishing ban for a period of time to replenish our fish stock," Del Rosario said in a statement to Inquirer.net.

Talking with reporters after a speech on rural development program in Mindanao, Mr. Aquino answered in the affirmative when asked if Filipino fishers would be asked to obey fishing at Scarborough Shoal.

"Yes," Mr. Aquino said. "And the [Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)] is supposed to be using some device that will improve fishing conditions elsewhere for our fishermen, especially those from Masinloc in the Zambales area and some from the Pangasinan area."

Annual ban

China is enforcing the fishing ban in the South China Sea beginning Wednesday to conserve resources and curb overfishing. The prohibition runs up to Aug. 1.

The official Xinhua News Agency cited a South China Fisheries Administration. Bureau official on Sunday as saying the ban includes waters around Huangyan Island. China's name for Scarborough Shoal, where Philippine and Chinese vessels have been standing off over sovereignty since April 10.

The fishing prohibition also covers foreign fishers, including those from countries with close territorial claims in the Spratly Islands, an archipelago in the South China Sea believed to have vast mineral and gas deposits and elucidated by sea lanes critical to global trade.

The ban, however, does not cover all of the Spratlys but only areas north of 12 degrees north latitude, including Scarborough Shoal.

Xinhua said the ban had been imposed annually since 1999. Since 2009, it has been implemented from May 16 and ending on Aug. 1.

Ecological damage

Mr. Aquino said that unlike Filipino fishermen, who are environmentally-conscious, Chinese fishers use huge trawlers at Scarborough Shoal.

"Now, vessels and personnel of our Coast Guard and the [BFAR] continue to monitor the [harvesting by Chinese fishers] of giant clams, and if they will improve the ban on the [harvesting] of those who are doing the harvesting, why wouldn't we welcome that here?" Mr. Aquino said.

"Naming Shoal would be able to recover," he said. "So there you if they will improve the ban on their people because, as a matter of fact, only a few of our fishermen go there," he said.

The President said the Coast Guard and the BFAR had reported of ecological damage to Scarborough Shoal, "something about the discoloration of the water."

"I'm not a marine aquaculturist so I'm not that conversant with the details," the President said. "But there seems to have been damage already inflicted as when there's damage, we want to help the ecosystem recover, and it has wonderful help in the controversy process."

Positive developments

The President indicated that there were positive developments in the negotiations with China to end the Scarborough standoff.

"The negotiations didn't stop — it's still not ready to say that the situation has become better but, at least, we're a bit closer to the improvement of the situation and preserving that peaceful diplomatic means," Mr. Aquino said.

The Philippine Coast Guard said it was ready to enforce a fishing ban, but had yet to receive orders from the authorities.

Until orders come down, Subing at the shoal continues, Lt. Cmdr. Rommel Espangon, acting Coast Guard spokesperson, said.

"We list the standing order to maintain our ship's presence and to show our flag," Espangon said.

As of 9 a.m. on Monday, Espangon said, there were four Filipino fishing boats and a BFAR vessel, the BRP 3002, in the Scarborough lagoon. The Coast Guard's BRP Pampanga, a search-and-rescue vessel, was in the area but not in the lagoon, Espangon said.

On the Chinese side, there were 11 fishing boats, two maritime surveillance vessels, and another craft from China's Fishery Law Enforcement Command, Espangon said.

The Chinese do not stop Filipino fishermen from going into the lagoon, Espangon said.

Other islands, too?

Both the Coast Guard and the DFA reported yesterday details of the Chinese fishing ban. The details of the ban, which should be shown on a map, would show the extent of China's territorial claims in the South China Sea.

Officials also wanted to see if the Chinese had also declared small islands within the Philippine exclusive economic zone in Luzon.

These are Reward Bank and Irving Shoal, located west of Bolinao, Sur and Pangasinan, respectively. Both are within Filipino fishermen also go.

China calls Scarborough Shoal, Huangyan Island and Scarborough Shoal Huangyan Island. **With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan and AP**

National ID system revived in House

By Elijah C. Calimbayan

THE HOUSE of Representatives is reviving a proposal to adopt a national identification (ID) system on a voluntary basis.

The House committee on revision of laws has agreed to consolidate bills filed by Congress and the public in the last two administrations.

The proponents are claiming that their measure, to be dubbed "PEP card," would be for citizens 18 years old and above to be used primarily to facilitate and streamline government transactions, cut red tape and increase productivity.

The measure's consolidation has been time and again postponed in Congress. However, said ideas, though how novel and noble its purposes are, has always been met with stiff opposition especially from human rights groups and other members of organizations fearing that this might be used by the state to violate the rights of individuals," Beltran said in a statement.

Beltran stressed that any information obtained from the system would be considered private and could not be used as evidence against the holders in any criminal proceedings.

For Bonnaudin, the system would consolidate the IDs issued by the Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System, Philhealth Registration Commission and Land Transportation Office.

Now, estimated 80 percent of our citizens of legal age do not have a valid identification card which can show proof of their identity when dealing with government agencies and private institutions," Bonnaudin said.

All our dividends would be given a lifetime number with the 'PIN' card to enhance the latest in card security technology.

Jeepney fares, pan de sal price cut

From page A1

from the audience at the national transport conference at Marikina Hall.

"I admit what you've done in lowering the jeepney fare from P8.50 to P8. Without fuss, without the shouting, without the hullaballoo, this came from your own initiative," Aquino said to Pilapil.

Aquino flew to Davao City with Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Francis Tolentino and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Director General Joel Villanueva at the event organized by 1-Ahon party-list group.

"You have the opposite of rush-mentality [rush-all-night] because just look at the color, your genuine smile of the people," Aquino told the party list and said that the government would find ways to cut the prices of spare parts and other drivers' needs.

"Don't be put in restraint no matter [if] extra income ng ating mga drayber, kahi kayong magpag-ng, mas lower [the rate that with these savings and extra income, you, our drivers, will be more lower even more]," Aquino said.

He said the government had also deployed "honesty teams" to watch out for the "kotong cops" (extortionist and also-ran) cops.

LTFRB order

Following the biggest rollback in fuel prices by oil companies since the start of this year, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) yesterday agreed on a fare reselling the 50-centavo adjustment in minimum jeepney fares granted in March.

In the same order, the LTFRB denied the consolidated petition of several transport groups for a permanent P2 increase to

JEEPNEY fares in Metro Manila and the provinces are expected to be cut by 50 centavos starting today.

jeepney fares, saying that a substantial hike would be too much of a burden for passengers.

"The big time rollback in the prices of diesel was implemented by some oil companies, a big time rollback in the prices before P45 per liter, and this rollback is likely to continue in the weeks to come," the LTFRB said in its decision.

At the start of the week, oil companies rolled back diesel and gasoline prices by P1.50 per liter and P1.40 per liter, respectively.

"Transport petitioners ... mentioned and announced in public that they will withdraw any petition for increase of fares in the event that prices of diesel shall be reduced to the P45 level," the LTFRB said.

Meanwhile, the trade and industry department is eyeing a cut in the suggested retail price of canned sardines from the current P13 to P13.50 per 155-gram can to P12.80.

In a briefing yesterday Trade Secretary Gregory L. Domingo said the government was studying this move because the three-month fishing ban that started in December last year had been lifted on March 2.

Fishing ban

In a separate statement, Trade Undersecretary Zenaida G. Maglaya explained that the DTI had previously allowed "increases in the prices of some brands of canned sardines in the first quarter of this year when [manufacturers] reported the high cost of fish due to the fishing ban in Mindanao."

The government had imposed the ban to assist canning the East Sulu Sea, Basilan Strait and Moro Gulf by December to allow the spawning of sardines—the fish variety primarily used in the manufacture of canned and bottled sardines—and thwart the decline of the sardine species. The lower volume of available sardines, however, led to a 10.8 percent increase in the price of the fish and reduced quantity of canned sardines, according to the DTI.

Also starting today, the DTI's Bagsakan project Dalaruan Gas-ayan is set to go around key cities across the country to offer consumers deeply discounted prices on school supplies and basic goods.

In a statement issued yesterday, the DTI said the one-day sale, dubbed as "Dalaruan Gas-ayan: Sulit Edyukey" ech-ion, would ease the burden of rising price of a variety of products, including school supplies, school uniforms, children's shoes and school bags, canned goods, processed meat, bread, cooking oil and detergent soap.

Local products made by micro, small and medium enterprises will also be featured.

Joining the Dalaruan Gas-ayan in other Brazilian markets are the Trade, National Statistics Office, National Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Internal Revenue and Social Security System.

Retail customers will be held across the country on separate dates until the end of May.

The trade secretary also announced that Pinoy Pan de Sal would cost P1 less per 16-piece pack weighing 200 grams.

"The cost of these basic goodsdown as the good news is that the cost of Pinoy Pan de Sal has gone down to P23 per pack. Two months ago it was P25," Domingo said.

In a separate briefing yesterday, Philippine Baking Industry Group (Philbaking) director Walter Co said the price reduction would take effect by May 20 this year. He, however, noted that the slash in flour prices was borne out of "goodwill" on their part, and is meant to urge local millers to also pass on the cost of flour being as would allow Philbaking members to also reduce the price of Pinoy Tasty and possibly, trigger price cuts among other commercial loaf bread variants.

Indonesian vs local flour

Co said the cost of Indonesian flour being used for Pinoy Pan de Sal was much lower at P940 per 25-kilogram bag, compared to the PNO to P1,100 cost per bag of local flour. Pinoy Tasty uses 100 percent locally milled flour, which is more expensive.

But Co added that they could use our Indonesian flour for the bread as "it also gives the bread a yellowish color. Local flour gives loaf bread that whitish tinge."

The petitioners that filed for the increase in jeepney fares were the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Associations of the Philippines, Alliance of Transport Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines, Liga ng mga Tsuper at Pilipino Inc., Alliance of Concerned Transport Organization and Stakeholders Association.

LTFRB board member Manuel Ivan said fares may be rolled back to P8 if 80 percent jeepney if diesel prices climb to around P49 per liter.

National Council for Consumer Protection president Elvira Medina welcomed the fare reduction, saying this would help the millions of Filipinos ride public jeepney back to school this June. She also praised the LTFRB for acting fast on recalling the fare hike following the drop in fuel prices.

Domingo said that the DTI is now working closely with the Department of Agriculture to check the country's fish supply. The cost of fish makes up 40 percent to 60 percent of the production cost of canned sardines.

Some groups, however, are recommending a more thorough scientific study on the spawning behavior of tamban instead of a fishing ban. The study was supposedly meant to ensure that harare fishing bans were not arbitrarily lifted on the peak spawning months, and that the fishing industry would get the most out of spawning conservation measures.

The Zamboanga Peninsula is considered as the country's sardine capital. The fishing, canning and other allied industries employ up to 35,000 people in the region.

The 12 canneries based in Zamboanga City alone supply about 60 percent of the country's demand for canned sardines. Dipolog City has become known for pioneering the processing of tamban into Spanish-style bottled sardines. **With a report by Nikko Gallego**

Across the NATION

11 die as jeep falls into Bontoc ravine

BAGUIO CITY—Eleven people died while 10 others were hurt when their jeepney fell into a 47-meter (150-foot) deep ravine in Bontoc, Mt. Province, on Sunday, police said yesterday.

The vehicle bound for Barangay Bulitan in Bontoc was ascending a road in Sitio Langgagan in Barangay Bulitan at 2 p.m. when the driver stopped to allow a passenger to pick up a bag that fell off, said Chief Insp. Benjamin Magaling, Coalfloor police director.

When the jeepney moved, its wheels soared to slip toward the ravine but stopped on the edge, a rear tire dangling, police said.

Passengers striking on the roof of the vehicle panicked despite efforts to calm them down by the driver, Antonio Dalawang. They jumped off, causing the vehicle to fall, Magaling said.

Seven passengers—Marlouse Bosis, Maryanne Cambil, Oswaldo Arrikod, Analyn Sallongan, Teresa Awayaan, Glegen Clarence and Adriane Domalyao—died on the spot.

Policemen, Army soldiers and volunteers from the village were alerted by mobile phone and pulled out the other passengers.

They took the victims to the Bontoc General Hospital, but Inia—Helen Lachela, Chanda Chonkan, Delia Sotolan and Melvin Awasdaw—died while being rescued, police said.

Dalawang, the jeepney owner identified as Hubert Picka, and four other passengers were unhurt, Magaling said. Vincent Cabreros, Inquirer Northern Luzon

NORTHERN SAMAR VICE GOVERNOR JOINS LIBERAL PARTY. Vice Governor Raul Aye is shown taking his oath as a member of the Liberal Party last May 8, 2012 before Nyanya Ilaiza and Commando Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and LP President Manuel "Noy" Roxas II. Among those who witnessed the oath-taking ceremony at the office of Secretary Roxas were from left Senate Deputy Speaker Rod Reyes, Governor Paul Daza and Cot. Esteban Balingit Jr. Ret. His governor's father. Some members of the provincial board, mayors and other local officials also took their oath as new LP members. The vice governor who hails from Pinipay is being eyed to run for representative of the 2nd district of Northern Samar. The new LP members later called on Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" R. Belmonte at his office in Batasan Pambansa Complex in Quezon City.

CORNUCOPIA. "Lepay," fresh farm harvest and other native products are on display in every house along the procession route of the "Pahiyas" festival in Lucban, Quezon.

Cops ready for 'Pahiyas' festival

By Dallo T Millari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCBAN, Quezon—Police have put in place all measures to secure thousands of people expected to flock to this municipality for today's "Pahiyas" festival.

"The gargantuan job of securing peace and order is quite daunting, but we're ready," Senior Insp. Hilario Carreria, town police chief, said in an interview on Sunday. He said the number of visitors could reach two million this year.

Pahiyas, a feast of thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest, is held on May 15 in honor of San Isidro, the patron saint of farmers. It is known for its exquisite display of multicolored "kiping" (colorful rice-based wafers elaborately arranged chandelier-style), fruit harvest and other native products in every house along the procession route.

The Department of Tourism has included the agricultural town of Lucban in its list of must-see tourist destinations, owing to its annual feast's rich cultural history, color and gaiety.

Throngs of guests are also expected to visit the equally popular religious destination, "Tinmuy-an Horse" shrine, two kilometers away from the town proper.

Carreria said the municipality's 94 policemen would be augmented by those to be released from the police provincial headquarters and provincial public safety company, a contingent of army soldiers, hundreds of volunteer traffic aides and barangay tanods (village watchmen).

Carreria said trucks and other vehicles were no longer allowed to enter the town since yesterday morning. "The vehicles will be stopped at the town's entrances. But we will provide them with safe parking areas," he said.

Carreria said motorists passing through the route or want to Laguna would be allowed to enter and make their way through the side streets, which are far from the procession route.

Normal traffic will resume after the fireworks tonight.

The procession route changes every year to give other houses a chance to showcase their own decorations. Residents believe that houses along the route are bound to receive special blessings in the coming year.

"We've waited for six years for the procession to pass by us. I reserved all fresh farm harvests for display on this event," farmer Rodrigo Hernan told the Inquirer.

HOMETOWN Snapshot

Another fishkill in Leyte lake

TACLOBAN CITY—Fishermen reported another fishkill in Lake Bito in MacArthur town in Leyte on Saturday, blaming mining activities for the environmental disaster.

"We did our better to count how many of the fishes floated. All we know is that it only further compounded our misery," said Jesus Cabitas, president of the Bito Lake Fishermen's Association.

Cabitas said Mena Mining Corp. opened its settling pond in Barangay Villa Isabela, leading to increased murkiness and contamination of the lake. Dead tilapia were seen floating all over the lake where fish pens and cages are found on some 30 acres of the pond, he said.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) found oil and grease in Lake Bito which could have come from equipment used by Mena, the agency's regional director, Jaime Granali, said.

But Granali maintained that the fish kill could not be solely attributed to the mining activities. "It is just one of the contributory factors which include improper disposal of human wastes and overmucking of the lake by fish pens and cages," she said.

Lake Bito hosts fish pens and cages occupying a total of 49 hectares or more than 10 percent of the required area set by the Fisheries Code of the Philippines. The lake size is 115 ha.

A BFAR investigation of the latest fishkill showed similar results as the first one. Cabitas' group claimed that the mining operations of the mining firm had led to the pollution of Lake Bito until a fishkill on March 15.

Ronnie Bahuyngan, chief of the mining supervising unit of the regional Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), said a team from his office went to Lake Bito to investigate the fishkill report.

"If there is indeed a violation committed by the mining company, we have no choice but to order its suspension. Of course, due process will be observed here," Bahuyngan said.

Mena, which is engaged in black sand mining, has been granted a permit by the MGB in November 2011.

Cabitas said his group would continue to protest against the operations of the mining company.

"What they did to us not only resulted in the destruction of our environment but the very lake which provides us our source of income," he said in a phone interview yesterday. Joey Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas

NEWSBRIEFS

■ ZAMBOANGA CITY

War vs dengue

THE CITY health office has declared "full battle alert" to combat the breeding grounds of mosquitoes carrying the dengue virus and to contain its transmission and campaign after the disease afflicted almost 800 cases since January, resulting in 10 child deaths, according to its head, Dr. Rodolfo Agbulos.

Most of the 10 victims were from the coastal villages of Tumaga, Talon-talon and Mampang, all in Zamboanga City, he said.

Agbulos said the health office has mobilized 50 personnel to conduct fogging operations in the affected areas and to distribute information materials to residents.

Mayor Celso Lobregat has also ordered the cleaning of all drainage canals in the city to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes.

Agbulos said the health office has also intensified its information campaign against dengue, which is transmitted by the Aedes aegypti mosquito.

Symptoms of dengue include high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pains, nausea, vomiting, swollen glands or rash.

Agbulos said dengue is usually mistaken for influenza, but unlike influenza, dengue can be fatal if not treated immediately.

—Mindanao Cross

■ QUEZON

Lightning kills 1

A PERSON was killed and four others were injured in Quezon town when the eaves that they were resting on was hit by lightning on Sunday, police said.

Primo de Castro, 48, of Barangay Mangga-dang 1, Sariaya, and his four companions were seeking shelter from the heavy rain inside a hut when the lightning occurred at 5 a.m., said SPO2 Ronel Bonaog, town police investigator.

De Castro, Aldrich Mangilao and Jerel de Castro were rushed by villagers to Candelaria United Doctors in Candelaria town, but De Castro was declared dead on arrival, Bonaog said. The two others suffered minor burns but refused to be brought to the hospital, he said.

—Rollie T. Mateo Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ LAGUNA

Businessman killed

A CHINESE owner of a textile manufacturing business was found dead with stab wounds and a deep slit in the neck in Sta. Cruz town on Friday.

The body of Leandro Pa, 55, was found after a security guard from a nearby establishment sought police help because he heard a commotion inside his Intex-Ricky noodle factory at around 1:30 a.m., said Supt. Dennis Masalin-tal, town police chief. He had been with two unidentified husband on the first floor.

Masalintal said a step-in worker, identified as Jimbo Dalas, 28, eventually admitted to the crime after police recovered a bloodied shirt and a bandkerchief from the workers' quarters on the second floor.

"The suspect said he and accomplice had planned snatching their employer because she used to scold at them at work," Masalintal said.

—Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ CEBU

Mayor's son shot dead

THE SON of Carcar City Mayor Nicepario Nanez was shot dead while disembarking his friends during a village disco in Barangay Valladolid, Carcar, about 45 kilometers south of this city.

Earl Nanez, 29, had a bullet wound in the head, police said.

A boy listed approached Nanez as he was leaving bar with friends at 1:15 a.m. during a birthday party for Sultan Valladolid, an Subur-ding, police said.

The victim's friends and relatives brought him to the city hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival by doctors.

—Jhonne Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas

■ TACLOBAN CITY

Woman held for shabu

A 48-YEAR-OLD mother of four spent Mother's Day in jail following her arrest for peddling and possession of illegal drugs.

Brizin Bisano was charged with violations of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 for allegedly selling 0.286 grams of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), worth P2,000 to an undercover agent in an entrapment operation on May 3.

Members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) also found beverage plastic sachets of shabu from Bisano during a body search, according to a statement from the PDEA. No bail was recommended.

—Cher Rea Inquirer Visayas

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Federer rules Madrid Open, back at No. 2

MADRID—Roger Federer dismissed Rafael Nadal in his 21 to the challenge after collapsing to beat Tomas Berdych, 7-6, 7-5, 7-5, and win the Madrid Open on Sunday. Gaston Gaudio defeated Nicolas Almagro in the top-ranked Nicolas Almagro, 6-1, 6-3, to win the women's final. While Novak Djokovic and United Nadal had blown out the blue clay court for their early visits, Federer faced a foe who had beaten him in three of their past five meetings. Federer will overtake Nadal as the No. 2 player behind Djokovic. AP

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoste

SPORTS

PBA upbeat on Govs' Cup

League expects record earnings

By Mueong S. Castillo

LAGAG—The Philippine Basketball Association is looking forward to the coming Governors' Cup to put an exclamation point to the league's banner season.

The season-ending, import-spiced event opens on Sunday at the Tuano Center in Batangas with all 10 teams providing reinforcement reinforcements who are limited to 6 feet 5—the height needed to stay the majority of coaches consider as a "quite" tournament.

Tenex battle it out in a single-round elimination with the top six advancing to the semifinal round with their records carried over. The top two squads after this stage will then clash in a best-of-seven title series.

Any venue, however, that takes four of its five matches in the semifinal round has links to head to the top two will have the incentive of challenging in a one-game playoff with the No. 2 squad for a place in the championship series.

At no time in the tournament will the spectator system be enforced, thus assuring that venue will go all out for a win each night.

The league grossed over P91 million at the gates last year, and the current leadership led by chair Manuel Mondragon of Rain or Shine, has declared that the target is to break that all-time high mark.

PBAD-the successor of the event Commissioner's Cup, which grossed about P55 million in the title series alone, the PBA is no stranger.

The unparalleled success of the All-Star Weekend that ended here Sunday night was also a very encouraging sign, according to commissioner Chito Salud.

"The games must continue to be attractive and exciting," Salud told reporters here. "Sports, after all, is all about excitement."

Salud said the weekend was a success not just because it was a box office here but also because the players showed renewed commitment in interacting with the fans.

PPI P Jumex Pop of the Veterans squad makes a pass off Pearl Lee of the PEJ in Sunday's well-attended All-Star Game in Laoag. ROGER WINSTON ONG

Elite, Steel Masters seek key D-L wins

By Jasmine W. Payo

PLACENTIA Spurs rises to step to the top four when the Elite go for a quarterfinal duel against the Cagayan Rising Suns in the 39th D League Foundation Cup today.

Clubbed by defending champion NLEX last week, the Elite hope to recover from their worst setting against the winless Suns at 2 p.m. at San Juan Gym.

Solid Pacific Pipes, and rank the Elite at 4-3, also eyes a quarterfinal berth against also-ran Junior Rosenvale in the second game at 4 p.m.

The Elite and the Steel Masters were in contention for an outright semifinal incentive, but both squads took crushing losses last week.

NLEX has secured the first Final Four slot with a perfect 8-0 card, while Cebuana Lhuillier at 16-21 and Big Chill 15-21 are the remaining contenders for the last incentive given to the top two teams at the end of the eliminations.

Barbecue coach Leo Isaac acknowledges his team's "lack of continuity," but hopes the Elite have learned their lesson after an introduction to the final Hunters, 80-83, last week.

Playing minus suspended star Kelly Nabong, the Elite dove a miserable 38 percent from the field in the first half before finishing with their lowest output this conference.

But with Nabong back and with the support of Jeric Relucio, Chris Cannon and Jeoffrey Sic and Ito Cruzeiro, the Elite aim to regain their form.

Lacuna, Alkhaldi boost PH Olympic cast to 7

By Jose Navarro

AQUAtennesses Jessie Hong Lacuna and Jasmine Alkhaldi to the last number of Filipino athletes seeing action in the London Olympics this July.

Swimming chief Mark Joseph yesterday confirmed the inclusion of Lacuna and Alkhaldi in the Philippine delegation, bringing the country's Olympic cast to seven and dissipating apprehensions that host talent might not be seeing action in the London Games.

According to Joseph, Lacuna and Alkhaldi qualified based on their rankings in the points table of the world swim body Fina.

Fina has slimmed the roster of qualified swimmers to the Olympics down to 900 worldwide from the 970 who participated in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"For swimming, making it to the Olympics is no longer automatic," Joseph, president of the Philippine Aquatic Sports Association, told the bosses. "Swimmers have to meet the standards of the Fina to ensure their arrival at an Olympic spot."

Lacuna and Alkhaldi, both 16, are set to compete in the Southeast Asian Federation Swimming Championship, an Olympic qualifying meet, in Singapore on May 29 to June 1.

Joseph said Lacuna, now the fastest male Filipino swimmer after breaking the PH record of Miguel Molina in the 200-meter freestyle, will swim the same event while Alkhaldi, who competed with Lacuna in the 2010 Youth Olympic Games, may vie in the 100m fray.

Lacuna, of Pelibar, Bulacan, and Alkhaldi, a freshman at the University of Hawaii, will join boxer Mark Anthony Barriga, long jumpers Marestella Torres, steeplechaser Necta Lawrence, short sprinter Eman Buncio and judoka Kenneth Madrisa in the Olympics set July 27 to Aug. 12.

GM Barbosa barges into World Cup

OLYMPIC OUTFITTER. Philippine Olympic team Chef de Mission Monty Lopez (second from left) and Mizuno sports division president and CEO Lorell Espino shake hands after signing an agreement making Mizuno the official outfitter of the PH squad to the Olympic Games on July 27 to Aug. 12. Mizuno is the third company to support the London-bound Filipino athletes, the others being ICTSI and Bank of the Philippine Islands. Looking on are Philippine Olympic Committee secretary general Steve Hontiveros (left) and Mizuno marketing manager Joi Cortes.

Petecio blows London bid by a hairline in qualifier

PETECIO

Arum goes with 45-45 split for Manny-Floyd fight

By Ray Loarca

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By Ray Loarca

Ateneo eyes first V-League semis slot vs Adamson

By Jasmine W. Payo

HOPING for another quick demolition job, Ateneo goes for the first semifinal berth against Adamson in the Shakey's V-League today at the Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Lady Eagles swept the Lady Falcons, 25-16, 25-22, 25-22, at the National University and University of St. La Salle-Bacolod, both seeking a first quarterfinal win, single in the first game at 2 p.m.

"My team really look as an underdog, what's important for us is to win every set," said Ateneo coach Roger Gonzaga.

quick victory as the Lady Eagles also unveiled a new guest player in Fevs.

GAMES TODAY
(Filoil Flying V Arena)
2 p.m.—NU vs DLSU
4 p.m.—Adamson vs Ateneo

rent of their quarterfinal campaign last Sunday in sixty unbeaten since sweeping the Group A elimination (4-0).

Alyssa Valdez, Angeline Gervacio, Filka Calaiglo and Thai import Phen Nok Kesaten teamed up for the

The veteran Rocon, still feeling her way with her new owner, chalked with five points for the Lady Eagles.

"It will all come down to the server-receive because in most familiar with the server for her former team," said Gonzaga.

Meanwhile, University of Santo Tomas also sustained its perfect run with a 25-19, 25-16, 24-26, 25-16, victory over the Eastern University in the quarterfinals on Sunday night.

Marcia Bautista and Judy Caballejo combined for 40 points to lead the Tigresses, while Maika Ortiz and Thai import Unawen Bunsing also stepped up in key stretches.

"The players were somehow nervous before we lose the third set. They had that winning drive in them," said UST coach Odjie Marcos.

Today's treadmill will be aired on a delayed basis starting at 7 tonight on ABS-CBN.

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Sharks devour Unibikers, tie Cebu Dolphins

WARREN Vhipe Manuel's two-run home run to tie the game and Aaron Andrew Bueno in the go-ahead run as the Sharks batting as Manila pulled off a 10-8 victory over Bicutan to keep its share of the lead with Urbiztondo in Baseball Philippines' Series 9 at the Parade Grounds in Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga.

The Sharks trailed as 6-0 before Vhipe and Bueno came up with the big hits in the three-run explosion in the eighth that lifted Manila to a fifth straight win and sixth overall against two losses.

The Cebu Dolphins matched the Sharks' 6-2 slate by trouncing the Taguig Warriors, 13-4.

The Alabang Tigers downed the Batangas Bulls, 10-3, as improve their record to Sharks split at 3-3 and Cebu Dolphins 5-1 record of Dumaguete in the league backed by the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Amateur Baseball Association and the Philippine Olympic Association.

Tagaig and Batangas shared last place with identical 2-3 slates.

Another six-game schedule is set Sunday in the event organized by Community Sports Inc. and sponsored by Gatorade, Empowerline Light, Clark Development Corp. and Rainforest Center.

Clippers advance; Heat trip Pacers

LOS Angeles Clippers guard Randy Foye gets fouled by Memphis Grizzlies center Marc Gasol.

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—Kenyon Martin scored seven of his 13 points in the fourth quarter, and the Los Angeles Clippers advanced in the Western Conference semifinals with an 82-72 win Sunday over the Memphis Grizzlies for Game 5.

The Clippers won only their third postseason series in 41 years and just their second since relocating to Los Angeles. They also avoided becoming the sixth NBA team to blow a 3-1 lead in a best-of-seven series. The Clippers move on to play the top-seeded Spurs starting Tuesday night in San Antonio.

Chris Paul scored 19 points despite playing with a strained right hip flexor. Mark Blount added 11 off the bench as the Clippers finished off the series with their biggest margin of victory.

Randy Foye and Matt Barnes each had 10 points. Zach Randolph had a game-high 12 rebounds.

A year ago, the Grizzlies lost a Game 7 at Oklahoma City in the second round of the playoffs.

The Clippers, who trailed 36-31 after three quarters, took control by opening the fourth with an 11-2 run started by a jumper by Martin. He capped it a shot for a 66-56 lead with 8:43 left. Mike Williams matched the Clippers' biggest lead in that point at 10 with a triple pushing it to 71-61 with 7:04 left in a 16-3 spurt to open the quarter.

Los Angeles finished off the win by hitting 9 of 10 free throws in the final 3:26. The Clippers also managed to incorporate the Grizzlies 66-44.

In Miami, LeBron James scored 32 points and grabbed 15 rebounds in his first game as a three-time MVP. Dwayne Wade finished with 29 despite struggling from the floor, and the Heat beat the Indiana Pacers, 91-86, to open their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Chris Bosh scored 15 points for Miami, but left late in the first half with a knee injury. Shane Battier added 13 points and seven rebounds. The Heat outscored Indiana 23-16 in the fourth, with Wade and James combining for 22 of those points.

AP

Players win Kuchar's biggest

PORT ST. LUCIE, Florida—American Matt Kuchar won the Players Championship on Sunday by two shots to secure the biggest win of his career and a $1.71 million paycheck.

Kuchar, delight of the watching family, Kuchar shot a final round of two-under-par 70 to finish the tournament at 13-under, two shots of Scotland's Martin Laird (67) and defending champion Englishman Luke Donald (71) and Ian Poulter (68). Overnight leader Kevin Na had a disappointing third day, shooting six bogeys in a 76 that saw him slip back to a tie for seventh.

Tiger Woods finished in a tie-eighth place after shooting a one-over par 73 to end the tournament at one-under.

Reuters

Azkals host Guam at Bacolod's Panaad June 12

By Cedrik P. Tapas

THE PHILIPPINE Azkals will return to the site of one their biggest victories to take on Guam on June 12 at the Panaad Stadium in Bacolod City.

A match against Bahrain's Under-22 team was initially considered before the Philippine Football Federation decided on hosting Guam, which is positioned near the bottom of the Fifa standings.

The game caps a three-match swing for the Azkals in June that starts with a game against Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur on June 1 and a date with Indonesia at the Rizal Memorial Stadium four days later.

The Azkals last played in Panaad in February last year when they defeated Mongolia, 2-0, in their AFC Challenge Cup pre-qualifying match. The national team also won against Timor Leste, 7-0, in the AFF Championship five years ago in Bacolod in one of the country's most convincing wins in history.

"We succeed in play against Bahrain Under-22 but it was also important for us to get Fifa ranking points and that can only happen if we play senior teams," said Azkals manager Dan Palami.

"The team is delighted at the prospect of playing again in Bacolod where support for the Azkals has also been overwhelming."

In preparation for the friendly matches, Azkals coach Michael Weiss said the team will be undergoing a week-long training camp in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental, starting May 21.

With the United Football League heading into the homestretch, Weiss said he thought it was better to leave his UFL players with their clubs as of the moment.

There's hope away from POC and PSC

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

HE WAS not a main character but it's a pity his name had been dispersed and about any less relevant.

He name is Michael Landicho, a youthful table tennis sensation who will represent the United States in the London Olympics.

Blame it on sport journalists in the cutthroat pace of the other sensation who was tasked, it was raised that Jaime L. Hilario, a six-time Philippine national table tennis champion, an ignominious "fallout" over and resignation from the US Table Tennis Association."

* * *

Hilario was made to lay the foundation for young American players many of whom he guided to the top like Landicho.

Hilario was in the meeting recently as a guest of Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos.

As noted in that release, he was the team, founder and pillar of the Philippine Table Tennis Academy (PTTA), which was launched in August last year.

Hilario acknowledged how in less than seven months, the PTTA, which he had helped establish in Mandaluyong, has produced outstanding results, including a six-year-old who turned a youngest national champion, and another small and obscure country who came all the way to Manila with a silver medal absence of victory, to succeed in Asia.

Hilario, nearing 53 now recently, explained the

has no doubt volunteerism that the PTTA would soon be fostering one many-sector competition who schools with many interconnectivity.

There are currently a total of 18 young players under the PTTA.

Hilario said the academy will be expected to involve 48 others city schools and barangays.

Asked if he thought the Philippines would at in produce table tennis Olympians, Hilario replied a broad smile and boosted wholeheartedly.

* * *

"But of course, Filipinos are a natural for table tennis. They are gifted with the motor very instincts for the game," Hilario explained.

Merry gifted these motorists?

"Yes! Yes!"

Hilario, who said he grew up in the Mandaluyong area around the Mandaluyong City Hall, serves as a registered nurse in New York.

He first flew on the US in 2007 to participate in tournaments.

As noted in an info sheet: "He soon became an accident table tennis enthusiast, ability in sports and soon granted permanent residency by the USCIS. He competed against some of the best US players and, in some cases, surpassed."

* * *

Hilario "scraped the bottom of his talent in 2008 when his protégé, Michael Landicho, became the youngest US Men's National champion at the age of 15."

Hilario, who flew back to New York on June 12, was asked why he was making all these sacrifices.

"I want to give back," he explained.

A product of the Don Bosco Catholic School, Hilario supported his schooling through athletic scholarship.

He continues to monitor all games and activities under the PTTA, currently based in the Mandaluyong Sports School on Ipo G. Aglipay Street, through the magic of the Internet.

But why was he cool about coordinating with major national sports organizations like the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission?

"I don't want to be tied down or beholden to any national government sports agency."

Pero ha ni ni the criminal duty publicizing in Philippine sports would publicize already?

No comment.

Leonardo, Mangubat stop Nat'l Open foes

FLEXING their muscles early, bowler Ivan Leonardo topped Leonardo and Elmer Jane Mangubat gained made light work of their respective rivals yesterday as the start of the Philippine National Open Ming Bowling Youth Camp Badminton Championships at the Rizal Memorial Badminton Hall.

Hoping to improve national coach Boni Malinski, Leonardo handled one Jeffrey Ey of Success Training Team, 21-6, 21-8, in just 18 minutes, before Mangubat overwhelmed Zachrie Dael Mornatevot, 21-10, 21-13, in the boys' 17-under lead matches.

Representing Team BTC, Leonardo will next face Joaquin Pangilinan of City Shoulder Pampanga, who posted a 21-4, 21-9 victory over John Louie Gamilloro of Bulakan Academy.

Triumphing in the way of Mangubat in the next round is Vincent Rafael Mesiard, who eliminated John Paul Bihis of MSU-IIT team, 21-14, 21-12.

In other matches, freshmen Martinique Israel Jacinto Mendoza, 21-13, 21-18; Ryan Gerych Dizer drubbed Elmer John Bandin, 21-11, 21-8; Wilfred Miguel Dizon ripped Kyle Jeremie Legaspi, 21-12, 21-14; Alberto Hilario III smashed Lloyd Anthony Bonoan, 21-15, 21-14; and Louie Medina held off Christian Bon, 21-17, 21-15.

Moreover, Philippine Badminton Association president Amelita "Bing" Ramon hit the ceremonial serve to signal the start of the tournament that drew a total of 767 entries from 56 badminton clubs.

The tournament is sponsored by Victas/PCCMC Industrial Sales, Ginge Ramon, Jun Cellular and the Philippine Sports Commission, is part of the talent-search program conducted by Malinski, who greeted the opening rites with Alexander Villanueva, president and CEO of Victas/PCCMC.

The national umpires secretariat, which has 36 umpires from Luzon, is also living outdoor alongside the five-day tournament.

Cedrik P. Tapas

Exciting NCA derby today

THE COUNTRY'S top breeders pit their champion racers anew in the National Cockers Alliance (NCA) derby at the Nueno Sports Arena in Pasig City today.

Today's derby hosted by George Torres, Claudio Barrera, and Boyet Jocson will have NCA members Butch Godoy, Coco Martin, Bebe Cruz and Greg Lamatao.

Among the guest breeders and NCA members competing are Tommy Chua, Danny dela Cruz, Bebe Tuviera, Jun Tupaz, James Uy, Eugene Martin, Lucing Sumagaysay, Murray and Armand Santos, Patrick Ingcasiano, Gerry Ramos, The Family Group, Ito Ynares, Sonny Mercado, Lito Orbikan, Charlie Ang, Joel Teves, Danny Reyes, Blacky Fernandez, Antonio Tan, Mr. Thai Pipe Solomon, Boni Bautista, Salonga, Jerjon Salazar, Tony Gosiaco, Jr. Valencia, Eric Delos Reyes, Bentley Chan and George Torres.

The NCA will stage the Global Championship Derby on May 25, 26 and 26. The event is dubbed by Filipino and Australian breeders as the "Olympics of cockfighting."

All NCA derbies are sponsored by Sagupaan Complexion.

Agbiag Cup age-group tennis lures 290 entries

THE 1ST Agbiag Cup Age-Group Tennis Championships got going yesterday at Brentside Hills Tennis Club in Cainta, Rizal, with a field of 290 players seeking action.

Tournament director Bobby Mangonon said the competitions aims to discover fresh talents that can be trained to vie for honors in the national scene.

Trophies and medals await the winners of the various age classes in the tournament that ends on May 20.

Sanctioned by the Philippine Lawn Tennis Association, the event is promoted by the Agbiyak party-list of sportsman Rep. Ibarra Amatong.

"I am hoping that new tennis stars from the grassroots level will be discovered in tournaments like this," said Amatong, himself an avid tennis enthusiast.

Division titles will be disputed in the 10-under, 12-under, 14-under, 16-under and 18-under for boys and girls.

PSA Forum guests: Viloria, ABL's Air Asia, SMB

WORLD Boxing Organization (WBO) flyweight champion Brian Viloria and The top two teams going into the semifinals of the Asia Asian Basketball League (ABL)—San Miguel and Air Asia Philippine Patriots—share undersiege on today's PSA Forum today at Shakey's in Ft. Bonifacio, Manila.

Viloria is appearing in the weekly forum amid his new world Sports Radio 94.7 Win and coinciding with Sergio Angeles' and Rodolfo Biminiano's split-decision knockout win over Mexican Dinia Mitre Romero to retain his 112-pound title last Saturday.

The Boxers will be represented by coach Bobby Parks and star player Chris Ellis here, while coach Glen Capacio and stalwart Alfred Ramos are representing team in behalf of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA). Also present are Atty. Joe Adasa for the Philippine Poker Tour VII and GM Cesar Caya for the 1st leg of the Philippine Knock Series, and Dr. Lucille Sandoval-Arc Inbers from Republic and Sta. Rosalie for the "Breaking Rules."

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Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

Gun instructor shot dead

Killers leave spray-painted message in victim's dining room

By Kristine Felisse Marquez

IN THE END, a part-time gun instructor's familiarity with every type and caliber of firearms proved useless after four men barged into his house in Barangay Tañong, Caloocan City, before dawn yesterday and shot him dead.

Insp. Jose Mario, chief of the Northern Police District's investigation unit, identified the victim as 42-year-old Jose Marrison Jr., a financial consultant and gun enthusiast who, in his spare time, taught policemen at Camp Crame how to handle their firearms.

While the motive for the killing has yet to be determined, police investigators were looking into the possibility that it may have something to do with his work as a financial consultant.

The man after they heard the message written in spray paint in the dining room: "Hayop ka. Sige magsalita. (Jojo, you low-life snitcher)."

However, the police said they did not know if the Jojo mentioned in the message was Marrison himself.

They added that the victim's relatives also refused to comment when they were asked about the matter.

Mario said the victim was reported to the police by his live-in partner, Marisol Divina, who said she was in an adjacent room with her 5-year-old child in the couple's house on GGS Hills Subdivision when she heard three shots ring out.

She added that immediately after, someone knocked on the door of her room. "When she opened her door slightly, she saw [several] men. ... She shut the door and locked it immediately," Mario said.

Divina told the police that she men did not force their way inside her room. When she looked out of the window, she saw them leaving the house and driving away in the victim's gray Honda CRV with license plate DDA-666.

As soon as they left, Divina went to the victim's room and saw him lying on the floor beside a bloodstained blanket, his feet tied together with a piece of rope.

Upon initial examination, police investigators found a gunshot wound on the victim's forehead although three were four cartridges and a bullet from a gun of a still undetermined caliber at the scene.

Mario said that Divina had told them that three of the victim's firearms were missing, raising the possibility that he may have been shot by the men with his own gun.

With Marvin Lagsapi, trainee

DID YOU KNOW

OUT OF a total crime volume of 14,383 in the National Capital Region for the first quarter of the year, around 58 per cent or 8,413 crimes were considered "cleared" or solved, according to the Philippine National Police.

SOURCE: Inquirer Research

SPONGEBOY With his Spreehorn container keeping him afloat in the water off the Hawaiian Port, a boy hears a slight resemblance to a popular cartoon character who "lives in a pineapple under the sea."

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

When each day is spent

understanding brands,

conversing with consumers,

integrating communication solutions,

thinking of digital strategies,

managing activation events,

pushing the value of every peso,

and measuring the results.

no has time to pose for a 10th anniversary

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Lead found in cheap school supplies

By Jayson T. Garcia

TODOC watchdog EcoWaste Coalition yesterday warned parents to beware of cheap school supplies after some of these were found to contain dangerous chemicals "above levels of concern."

Out of 25 samples bought from malls in Divisoria and a popular bookstore in Manila, nine tested positive under a handheld X-Ray Fluorescence analyzer for lead and other heavy metals like antimony, arsenic, cadmium and chromium.

The school supplies which included pencil cases, backpacks, a plastic envelope, a water canteen and a pair of shoes were bought on May 4 at prices ranging from P58 to P999.

Tuesday tests conducted the next day showed that some of these contained lead ranging from 339 ppm (parts per million) to 31,862 ppm, far above the 90 ppm limit set under the US Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008.

Among children, there are no safe levels for lead exposure, EcoWaste reiterated in a press statement.

"Lead in school supplies is a real threat to our children's health as lead can be released in a toxic fake, chip or dust as the products age and deteriorate," said Aileen Lucero of EcoWaste Coalition's Project Protect.

Lucero pointed out that lead is a neurotoxin or a substance capable of damaging the central nervous system. Exposure may lower children's intelligence quotient and affect their educational performance, she warned.

"The good news is we found undetectable levels of lead in 16 products, indicating the availability of products with low or no lead in the market. However, it will be extremely difficult for consumers to detect which products are really duty-bound of inadequate product safety certification and labeling," Lucero said. With reports from Ige Ramos, trainee

PRIZED POSSESSION
A boy moves cautiously as he holds his puppy close though his family were among the many who lost most of their possessions in Friday's fire at Isla Puting Bato in Tondo, Manila. ALEXANDER CORPUZ

7 men get life sentences for kidnapping woman

By Julie M. Aurelio

A JUDGE yesterday sentenced to life imprisonment seven men who were found guilty of abducting a woman and demanding more than P200,000 in ransom from her family in 2003.

Convicted for the kidnapping of Imelda the owner John Galicia, Roger Bernardo, Leopoldo Enriquez, Carlito Ugat Jr., Elmo Alfaricto, Napoleon Pormogal and Roger Chiua.

Antonio was a former soldier while Ugat used to be in the police service.

The victim's driver, Faustino Williams, was sentenced to serve up to 17 years in jail for being an accomplice.

In a 44-page ruling handed down yesterday, Judge Edgar Dalmacio Amista of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 223 also ordered the principal accused to pay the victim P175,000 in moral damages.

And there, that video on YouTube came out and suddenly, by the side of public opinion changed in my favor.

I can't thank enough the guy who took that video and uploaded it on YouTube.

To that guy who saved me: Thank you very much, my friend and I salute.

I call you "my friend" even if we haven't met because you're heroic.

I hope we can meet so I can thank you jointly. I consider you family out of immense gratitude.

I call you my "savior" because without that video, I would be the most hated and despised man in the country right now, what with all the play-acting that my opponents resorted to. Even GMA TV rumors and radio microphones.

If not for that video, I think I would have resigned as a columnist and broadcaster considering it became. I would have lost my credibility.

I would have spent the rest of my life at my farm in Puerto Princesa, planting vegetables and diesel coconut trees on a not-so-fertile soil.

Who knows, perhaps I would have passed on after a year or two because I would have found farming a boring occupation and felt no longer needed by the community.

I'll tell you now why I think this is blessed. My admirers in the Japanese and Bandung; my "bombong ng kay Tulfo" public service program on radio and my son on TV5.

I feel needed and desire an unattainable self-actualization except day because of my work as a priest and broadcast journalist.

I would not give up my work as a columnist and broadcast commentator even for a very high paying job outside of the field of journalism.

Take me away from my pen, I resist and I might die out of sheer boredom because being a journalist is the only job I know.

They say that many people left the bucket within 40 months to a year after retirement because they did nothing and just stayed at home.

So, again, thank you my friend and writer for giving me a new lease on life.

* * *

Her mental of being released. Her son, transferred to another house in the East Fairview area in Quezon City.

At this point, her kidnappers demanded an additional P5 million from her family but this amount was subdued down to P200,000.

The second payoff, however, did not push through after operatives of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer) were approached by Ida's husband.

On May 22, 2003, Bilisteo, Bernardo and Enriquez were arrested by Pacer agents who also rescued the victim.

Follow-up operations led to the apprehension of Villareo and Chua in Mandaue City and later on, Galicia and Pormogal.

In their defense, the accused denied the charges against them, claiming they were coerced into admitting their involvement in the crime. With Regina Magtara, trainee

Credibility is my only asset

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

Ever since I started writing my column in 1986, I have been asked by friends, relatives and even strangers why I write the way I do.

I have been told that I write like I talk, which is true.

I write the way I talk because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them personally.

I write in the first person because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them personally.

I write in the present tense because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them in the present.

I write in the active voice because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them actively.

I write in the second person because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them directly.

I write in the third person because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them objectively.

I write in the past tense because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them about something that happened in the past.

I write in the future tense because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them about something that will happen in the future.

I write in the present perfect tense because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them about something that has happened in the past and is still relevant in the present.

I write in the past perfect tense because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them about something that had happened in the past before something else happened in the past.

I write in the future perfect tense because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them about something that will have happened in the future before something else happens in the future.

I write in the present continuous tense because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them about something that is happening now.

I write in the past continuous tense because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them about something that was happening in the past.

I write in the future continuous tense because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them about something that will be happening in the future.

I write in the present perfect continuous tense because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them about something that has been happening in the past and is still happening in the present.

I write in the past perfect continuous tense because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them about something that had been happening in the past before something else happened in the past.

I write in the future perfect continuous tense because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them about something that will have been happening in the future before something else happens in the future.

I write in the present simple tense because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them about something that is happening now.

I write in the past simple tense because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them about something that happened in the past.

I write in the future simple tense because I want my readers to feel that I am talking to them about something that will happen in the future.

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I write in the future perfect continuous simple

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible] 807 Maligaya St., Manila, Manila

NOTICES OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
Asian Insurance Corp. [illegible]	Kwang Hyun Kim Korean	IT Manager
Title Condominium Manila, Inc. [illegible]	Kwangsik Park (aka Jin Hong) Korean	Consultant
Philippine Prudential Life Insurance Company, Inc. [illegible]	Rohit Khanna Pradeep Khanna	Executive Vice President for Retail Marketing
Outbound Education and Migration Consultants, Inc. [illegible]	Neeraj Indian	Student Coordinator
Lotte Confectionery Philippine Corporation [illegible]	Yohannes Mulatu Libanos	Sales Manager
Techmahindra Limited [illegible]	Rupal Sabharwal Indian	Business Analyst
Network Management Resources Corporation [illegible]	Ravindar Sy Taiwanese	Marketing
Accenture, Inc. [illegible]	Vishal Srivastava Indian	Manager
ALCOM Consultancy Inc. [illegible]	Sasha-David Fields British	Consultant / Construction Superintendent
ALCOM Consultancy Inc. [illegible]	Christopher Fry British	Consultant / Senior Welding Inspector
ALCOM Consultancy Inc. [illegible]	Kenneth Wilson Jones British	Consultant / Turbine Piping Specialist
Accenture, Inc. [illegible]	Thiago Marques Ito Fernandes Da Silva Brazilian	Senior Analyst
SBT Philippines, Inc. [illegible]	Nyoshin Lin Korean	Korean Speaking Purchasing Executive
Oledroop Philippines, Inc. [illegible]	Jaeung Yoo Indonesian	Sports Trader
Ef 100-on Travel and Tours Corp. [illegible]	Sung Chul Jeon Korean	Vice-President Manager
Oledroop Philippines, Inc. [illegible]	Eddy Indonesian	Sports Trader
Oledroop Philippines, Inc. [illegible]	Tan Lilin Indonesian	Sports Trader
Kindt Leisure Management Inc. [illegible]	Shinchul Lee Korean	Dealer / Inspector
Kindt Leisure Management Inc. [illegible]	Mirang Jeon Korean	Dealer
Asian Electronic Data Processing (Philippines) Inc. [illegible]	Rodolfo Chavez Rungo Lenara Sri Lankan	Asst. Vice-President and Site Operations and Capacity Management Lead
Kindt Leisure Management Inc. [illegible]	Kye Ik Hur Korean	Junior Dealer
Philippine Building Corporation [illegible]	Bonae Gu Korean	Sales Manager
Kerzs Glass Corporation [illegible]	Seung Won Cho Korean	Manager, Accounting Department
Baler Foundation Philippines, Inc. [illegible]	Robert Hardage Dutch	Chief Mechanic / Workshop Manager
Bizgar Manila Co. Ltd. Inc. [illegible]	Daisuke Hashimoto Japanese	Design Manager
Tri Quality Services Philippines, Inc. [illegible]	Peter Lord Clinton Trainor	Country Manager

If you have any information objection to the above mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ALVARO MACARAIG JR.
Regional Director

FORMER Taliban fighters hand over their weapons to Afghan police as part of a reconciliation process in Herat, Afghanistan, on May 11. Taliban leaders, including one of the most senior members of the organization, Agha Jan Motasim, told AP that rumors Taliban supported a coup d'etat against the government are ... —AP

Divisions wrack Taliban, says moderate commander

KABUL, Afghanistan—One of the most powerful men on the Taliban council, Agha Jan Motasim, nearly lost his life in a ball of bullets for advocating a negotiated settlement that would bring a broad-based government to his beleaguered homeland of Afghanistan.

In an exclusive and rare interview by a member of the so-called Quetta Shura, Motasim told The Associated Press on Sunday that a majority of Taliban wanted a peace settlement and that there are only "a few" hard-liners in the movement.

"There are two kinds of Taliban. The one type of Taliban who believes that the foreigners want to solve the problem but there is another group and they don't believe, and they are thinking that the foreigners only want to fight," he said by telephone. "I was of two thought, that the majority of the Taliban and the Taliban leadership want a broad-based government for all Afghan people and an Islamic system, the other Islamic countries."

But Motasim shunned the West, singling out the United States and Britain, for failing to bolster the moderate voices in the fundamentalist Islamic movement by refusing to recognize the Taliban as a political identity and backtracking on promises—all of which he said strengthens the hard-liners and weakens moderates like himself.

In his most brazen attack on the so-called Quetta Shura, Motasim said The Associated Press on Sunday that a majority of Taliban wanted a peace settlement and that there are only "a few" hard-liners in the movement.

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His lieutenant Stanikzai's assassination in Kabul of Senator Rabbani, a member of the Afghan government-appointed peace council who was active in trying to set up formal talks with insurgents, Behrami viewed as deputy minister of higher education in the former Taliban regime but later reconciled with the current Afghan government.

"He was a nationalist. He respected him," Motasim said.

Motasim said his own mission to press for talks nearly cost him his life when the United States began making overtures to the Taliban in late 2010. At the time, he was also chief of the Taliban political committee, a powerful position that he held until he was shot last August. He is still a member of the Taliban leadership council, the Quetta Shura, named after the Pakistani city of the same name.

His voice softened and he paused often as he reflected on the brutal shooting in the port city of Karachi, Pakistan, where he lived, while moving regularly in Afghanistan and Pakistan, in areas that he refused to identify.

Several bullets shattered his body and he was hospitalized for many weeks. In the first days after the shooting, he wasn't expected to survive.

The AP spoke to Motasim from Turkey where he had gone for additional treatment. When speaking of his attackers, he referred to them as brothers and colleagues, saying they may have been Taliban hard-liners who opposed his moderate positions.

"My idea was I wanted a broad-based government, all political parties together and reconciliation between all Afghans among the Taliban in Afghanistan and in Pakistan didn't like to hear this and so they attacked me," he said. Some of the gunmen may have come from Afghanistan and some may maybe come from Pakistan's North Waziristan where militant groups have broad sanctuary, Motasim said.

In the early minutes of the telephone conversation, Motasim was reluctant to talk politics, saying he had been told by his friends and colleagues to stay silent.

But he gradually opened up, saying the Taliban have three main demands. They want all Afghan prisoners released from US-run detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay and the Bagram Air Field north of the Afghan capital; the names of all Taliban currently on the United Nations sanctions blacklist removed; and recognition of the Taliban as a political party.

He said talks in Qatar ended earlier this year after the United States reneged on a promise to release five prisoners from Guantanamo Bay. "But these are just the former ones," he said. "There are thousands more being held in Bagram and they are being held under the name of Taliban but they are innocent people, farmers and clerics."

The prisoner exchange issue is rife with sensitivity as the United States has sought to exchange American Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, captured by the Taliban in 2009, for Afghan Taliban held to Guantanamo. It appears the prisoner exchange fell through after the Afghan government demanded the five prisoners be repatriated to Afghanistan. The five prisoners have demanded they be allowed to go to Qatar with their families.

The UN Security Council issued a statement expressed the Taliban in November 1999 for refusing to send Osama bin Laden to the United States or a third country for trial on terrorism charges in connection with the bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998. The sanctions—a travel ban, arms embargo and assets freeze—were later extended to al-Qaida. AP

Rebuking Merkel, Germans vote for Social Democrats

BERLIN—Chancellor Angela Merkel's party suffered a stinging defeat in elections in Germany's most populous state on Sunday, one likely to embolden her political opponents both at home and abroad as the European debt crisis enters a critical new phase.

The result, after hustings seized the French presidency the Social Democrats won the parliamentary election in North Rhine-Westphalia, early results and exit polls released on Sunday showed. Hannelore Kraft, the lead candidate for Merkel's Christian Democrats in the state, conceded defeat and said he would be stepping down as the head of the party there.

Exit polls for German public television showed the Social Democrats winning 38.1 percent of the vote, an increase of 4.6 percentage points from two years earlier. While the results were not official, the party was likely to achieve a double-digit margin of victory. The Christian Democrats won just 26.3 percent of the vote, 8.3 percentage points less than in the previous election.

"This is a bitter day for us," Kraft told supporters. "We have suffered a clear and decisive defeat."

In his concession speech, he took responsibility for the defeat, calling it "my loss" as a result of "my campaign, my themes," but the ramifications went far beyond the borders of the state.

With the Green Party's 11.4 percent of the vote, analysts say the state premier, Hannelore Kraft, of the Social Democrats, will be able to easily form a left-wing coalition to govern the state with ease. For the past two years, Kraft had ruled with a minority government, forced to draw votes from the left or the right to pass each piece of legislation.

Rodgers ran against the debt-financed spending supported by Kraft, and even described the vote as a referendum on Merkel's austerity policies.

Merkel and her party hoped to sway the electorate with their hard line on Europe, painting Kraft almost as a domestic version of the spendthrifts the Germans complain about in Greece, Portugal and other economically struggling nations in Europe.

Instead the voters handed Kraft, who pushed the state deeper into debt but hired more police officers and teachers and abolished fees for higher education, a significant victory. "We made people the central focus again," Kraft told supporters Sunday evening. New York Times News Service

KRAFT —

Plane crash kills 15 in Nepal mountains

KATHMANDU, Nepal—A plane crashed into a mountain in the Himalayas while trying to land at an airport in northern Nepal on Monday, killing 15 people and critically injuring six.

The plane was turning around to land at Jomsom Airport when it crashed, said Lazim Raj Sharma, chief government administrator for the area.

The wrecked aircraft was in pieces but did not catch fire, Sharma said the initial investigation indicated it might have had technical problems.

Sharma said survivors were flown to the nearby city of Pokhara for treatment.

Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai issued a statement expressing condolences to the deaths of the 15 people.

Police official Sonsiwar Aryal said the plane carried two pilots and a flight attendant—all Nepalese—along with 14 Indians and two Westerners. Aryal couldn't immediately say where the Westerners are from.

The airport is a gateway to a popular destination for trekkers and for tourists pilgrims on their way to the revered Muktinath temple. It is about 200 kilometers (125 miles) southwest of the capital, Kathmandu.

The Twin Otter aircraft belonged to the local Agni Air company. AP

US churches split on gay marriage

AT A BLACK Pentecostal church in Raleigh, North Carolina, Rev. Patrick Wooden entered the sanctuary on Sunday to a standing ovation, enabling that flock's "high hand" after voters here went in June a statewide amendment banning same-sex marriage. He took to the pulpit and denounced President Barack Obama for taking a stand "in support of this," and "in opposition to the biblical model of marriage."

A thousand miles away, at a predominantly white Episcopal church in Madison, Wisconsin, Rev. Susan Schneider preached that gay men and women were included when Jesus commanded his followers to love one another: "Nothing shuts the walls in other than sin."

Obama's declaration last week that he supports same-sex marriage prompted ministers around the country to take to their pulpits on Sunday and preach on the issue. But in the clash over homosexuality, the battle lines do not simply pit mainstream against secular advocates for gay rights. Religion is on both sides in this conflict. The battle is actually shaking various church, national versus regional, and Scripture versus Scripture.

The dividing lines are often unpredictable. There are black churches that condemn homosexuality, and white churches that don't. Some Presbyterian churches here openly gay clergy members, while others will not. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that homosexual behavior is a sin, but there are Catholic priests who secretly bless gay unions.

And leaders in the United Methodist Church have been debating whether to ordain openly gay ministers for four decades, and voted again just this month to uphold their prohibition. But there are Methodist ministers who perform same-sex marriages in defiance of church rules.

The faith divide resembles what the nation experienced in the debates over slavery, said Michael Gorgan, a lecturer in Old Testament and Hebrew Bible at Harvard Divinity School, and the author of "God and Sex: What the Bible Really Says."

"The presidency reemerges against the Bible repeatedly, saying that God has all these commandments about slavery and nowhere in the Bible, including the New Testament, is it stated that there's anything wrong with slavery," Gorgan said. "The abolitionists also quoted the Bible, but used the same sort of more general ways that supporters of same-sex relationships are using: Love your neighbor, treat others as you would have them treat you, the golden rule."

Obama described his own faith when he revealed on Wednesday—a day after North Carolina voters approved an amendment to ban same-sex marriages, partnerships and civil unions—that he supports same-sex marriage. He said that he and the first lady "see both practicing Christians," and that "ultimately" his position "may be considered to put us at odds with the views of others."

"But, you know, when we think about our faith, the thing at your that we think about is, not only Christ sacrificing himself on our behalf, but it's also the golden rule—you know, treat others the way you would want to be treated."

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Wooden was in the forefront of the political fight over the marriage amendment in North Carolina, serving on the executive committee for the campaign and sending radio advertisements he heard around the state. He said that he had been seized by a single emotion, and that he believed children needed both a mother and a father.

At the Lutheran church in Madison, Schneider directly tackled the issue of the biblical prohibition on homosexuality in her sermon. The church is a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a mainline Protestant denomination that voted three years ago to allow openly gay clergy members to serve.

"Yes, it's true that the Bible says some very strong things about homosexuality" she said to about 150 congregants, who cringed in agony from middle to the back. "It's also true that the Bible has passages that prohibit men from cutting their hair, and that forbid anyone from wearing mixed fiber fabrics, or planting two different kinds of seed in their fields, or eating shellfish. The Bible also commands slaves to obey their masters, parents to stone unruly children, and upholds as heroes of the faith men with multiple wives and concubines."

"As Lutherans," she preached, "we don't give each part of the Bible equal weight." *New York Times News Service*

FACEBOOK CEO Mark Zuckerberg

Facebook CEO turns 28: Does age matter?

By Barbara Ortutay

NEW YORK—Don't let the hoodie and sneakers fool you. Mark Zuckerberg is no wet-behind-the-ears CEO.

Facebook's chief executive turns 28 on Monday, setting in motion the social network's biggest week ever. The company is expected to start selling stock to the public for the first time and begin trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market on Friday, the IPO could value Facebook at nearly $100 billion, making it worth more than such iconic companies as Disney, Ford and Kraft Foods.

At 28, Zuckerberg is exactly half the age of the average S&P 500 CEO, according to executive search firm Spencer Stuart. With eight years on the job, he's logged more time as leader than the average CEO, whose tenure is a little more than seven years, according to Spencer Stuart. Even so, the pressures of running a public company will undoubtedly take some getting used to. Once Facebook begins selling stock, Zuckerberg will be expected to please a host of new stakeholders, including Wall Street investment firms, hedge funds and pension funds who will pressure him to keep the company growing.

Rising as he may seem, especially in that hooded sweatshirt—Zuckerberg will be almost the same age as Mitt Romney and older than Steve Jobs when those two took their companies, Dell Inc. and Apple Inc., public. In his years as Facebook's CEO he's met world leaders, rode a bull in Vietnam while on vacation, started learning Mandarin Chinese and as a personal challenge, went a year without eating meat. He's married to Priscilla Chan, whom he met online. The couple's website later grew to include high-schoolers, then anyone else with an Internet connection. Today more than 900 million people log in at least once a month, making Facebook the world's definitive social network.

All along, Zuckerberg has shown a maturity beyond his years. As the site grew rapidly and caught the eye of big media and rival Internet companies, Zuckerberg consistently rebuffed suitors—turning buyout offers, including from Google Inc. and Yahoo Inc.

"Simply put: We don't build services to make money; we make money to build better services," wrote Zuckerberg in his letter to prospective shareholders. Next we think this is a good way to build something. There aren't many companies out there people want to use services. From companies that believe in something beyond simply maximizing profit."

People who've observed Zuckerberg closely say his age is an asset. He is the generation that grew up with social networking, with computers all around them and the Internet as something that's always existed. Many of his employees are younger than him, as are a lot of the up-and-coming technology entrepreneurs with ideas for companies.

"I don't think you could build a company like this if you were an old guy like me," says David Kirkpatrick, a 59-year-old author who chronicled the company's early history in "The Facebook Effect." Kirkpatrick, who is also founder of Techonomy, a media company that explores connections on the relationship between technology and economy and social progress, first met Zuckerberg six years ago. He says he was impressed with his vision, even then. "It's the willingness to take risks, the willingness to abide by a very consequential vision ... I don't think that he's unusual. I think most CEOs are too old."

Zuckerberg, who lives in Palo Alto, California, with his girlfriend and a rabbit Hungarian Puli dog named Beast, has stepped on a lot of toes with the help of some high-powered friends. One of his closest advisers is Sheryl Sandberg, whom he hired away from Google in 2008. Zuckerberg, known for sometimes awkward public appearances, realized that the razor-sharp, people-savvy advertising executive could represent his company's showcasings. *AP*

Syrians raid village; violence reaches Lebanon

BEIRUT—Syrian forces killed at least five people when they raided a Sunni farming village on Sunday, torching homes and looting shops in what activists said is a sign of worsening violence among the country's religious groups.

Tensions mounting from the 14-month-old uprising against President Bashar al-Assad also reached off clashes across the border in Lebanon as the revolt threatened to morph into a broader conflict.

The latest incidents of violence border undermines a UN-backed peace plan that is supposed to bring an end to Syria's deadly crisis. A ceasefire that was supposed to begin on April 12 has had only a limited effect, throwing into doubt the fate of the plan that calls for talks between Assad's regime and those seeking to oust his rule.

The raid against the impoverished village of al-Tremseh, about 35 kilometers (20 miles) north-west of the city of Hama, began late Saturday and continued through the early hours of Sunday. The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said five people were killed in the raid and government troops were setting fire to homes.

Speaking via Skype from Hama, activist Ahmad Alhamadee said that four rebel leaders were killed alongside five civilians.

"He was a hero in the Free Syrian Army who was trying to defend the civilians," he said, referring to the umbrella group of local, anti-regime militias.

An amateur video posted online on Sunday showed men carrying the dead body of a woman from a house. A second video showed men in a mosque praying over five coffins, three of them open with flowers piled on bodies wrapped in white cloth.

The area, a plain of farmland along the Orontes River, is dotted with villages of Christians, Sunni Muslims and Alawites, the offshoot sect of Shiite Islam to which Assad belongs.

Alhamadee, who is from a village near al-Tremseh, said sectarian tensions were low before the uprising, but have deteriorated as Sunni villages like al-Tremseh joined the anti-Assad uprising.

Alhamadee said the Alawites in the area had not joined the regime's crackdown on the opposition, but there are Catholic priests who secretly bless gay unions.

Local leaders in the United Methodist Church have been debating whether to ordain openly gay ministers for four decades, and voted again just this month to uphold their prohibition. But there are Methodist ministers who perform same-sex marriages in defiance of church rules.

The faith divide resembles what the nation experienced in the debates over slavery, said Michael Gorgan, a lecturer in Old Testament and Hebrew Bible at Harvard Divinity School, and the author of "God and Sex: What the Bible Really Says."

"The presidency reemerges against the Bible repeatedly, saying that God has all these commandments about slavery and nowhere in the Bible, including the New Testament, is it stated that there's anything wrong with slavery," Gorgan said. "The abolitionists also quoted the Bible, but used the same sort of more general ways that supporters of same-sex relationships are using: Love your neighbor, treat others as you would have them treat you, the golden rule."

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A SUNNI gunman moves his position during clashes in the port city of Tripoli, Lebanon, on May 13. *AP*

Greek elections loom as coalition talks fail

ATHENS—Greece's radical left-wing leader spurned an invitation from the president for a final round of coalition talks on Monday, all but ensuring a new election that he is poised to win.

Greece's political landscape has been in disarray for a week since an inconclusive election left parliament divided between supporters and opponents of the EU-led bailout terms ($1.161.5 billion) in 2009 bailout, with neither side able to form a government.

Government officials have warned that Greece could run out of cash as early as the end of June if it does not have a government in place to negotiate the next aid tranche with its lenders.

"The country is on the verge," the financial daily Imerisia wrote on its front page, warning in an editorial: "The country is moving in the brink of collapse and hopes for restoring the political stability are fading away."

President Karolos Papoulias moved call a new election if he cannot persuade leaders to compromise. After a day of fruitless negotiations on Sunday, he invited politicians from the biggest three parties to return to the presidential mansion on Monday, along with a small leftist group.

But an official from the second biggest party, the radical leftist Syriza, said its 37-year-old leader Alexis Tsipras would not attend.

The antibailout vote was divided among small parties but has now rallied behind Tsipras. Polls show he would take place first if the vote is repeated, a prize that comes with a bonus of 50 extra seats in the 300-seat parliament.

Tsipras has consistently refused to join a coalition government with the establishment conservative and socialist parties that ruled Greece for decades, but were punished by voters last week for their role in approving the EU rescue, which requires deep cuts in wages and pensions.

Tsipras says he wants to keep Greece in the euro but the bailout deal must be torn up, a position shared by an overwhelming majority of Greeks but regarded by many in Brussels as unrealistic. European leaders say tearing up the bailout would require them to cut off funding, allow Greece to go bankrupt and eject it from the European single currency.

Reuters

Edwards' mistress led a tabloid-grade life

By Jeffrey Collins and Michael Biesecker

GREENSBORO, North Carolina—Rielle Hunter's life had a lurid, unpredictable tabloid quality to it—full of deception, betrayal, reckless behavior and broken dreams—until her affair with former party veteran John Edwards became the biggest fun to recent American political history.

Her father had her beloved show horse killed for insurance money. An ex-boyfriend sued her as his muse for the "Goddess" exhibit, saying researcher" ruined some of his artwork. She were to Hollywood to become a star and left about a decade later with only a few bit parts.

Through it all, Hunter considered herself a single mother.

"For so long, as I can remember, I had a relentless desire for a family," she said in a deposition taken for the mid-2000s.

Then she met former Sen. John Edwards in the bar of a New York hotel in 2006. Hunter said they had a connection the instant their eyes met, and a few hours later she was spending the night in the Democratic presidential candidate's room.

Their relationship led to a landslide of lies.

First, they had to hide their

RIELLE Hunter, left, in an Aug. 6, 2009, photo and former US senator and presidential candidate John Edwards in a May 10 photo. *AP*

relationship. She stayed silent as Edwards publicly professed his love for his cancer-stricken wife, Elizabeth, and the two rose to the presidential campaign trail.

When she got pregnant with Edwards' child, she agreed to preserve his presidential ambitions by letting the candidate's devoted right-hand man claim paternity. Then she had to listen on TV as Edwards said it was impossible for him to be the father.

Whether Edwards is telling the truth or not is now at the center of his campaign finance trial, which says in North Carolina. Edwards' lawyers said the candidate had no idea nearly $1 million from a pair of wealthy benefactors was being spent to hide Hunter and keep her away from the rubbish during Edwards' run for the White House. Prosecutors said Edwards orchestrated the cover-up.

Prosecutors rested their case on Thursday without calling the 58-year-old Hunter to the stand, despite pressing her name early in the trial. They say why. But legal experts said the site be flighty and unpredictable and could have proved dangerous to the government's case.

Edwards' lawyers have not said whether they will call her to testify but she could be hugeadvan to the defense for the same reason. Also, legal experts said, her appearance on the stand might only hurt Edwards with the jury by emphasizing his cheating and lying.

Hunter was born Lisa Jo Druck. Her father was a government lawyer, and she lived a privileged life growing up in Florida. Hunter, who adopted her new name in 1996 while out in Hollywood, said both her parents cheated in their marriage.

She loved horses, especially her show horse Beauty She Heads, which her father bought for $150,000. But in 1982, he was short on cash. He had an insurance policy on the animal worth $150,000 and taught a man named Tommy "The Good Hand" Gomez how to poison a horse so that it would look like a death from natural causes.

Hunter found her beloved horse dead in its stall, and her father later confessed to the scheme, according to a Sports Illustrated story on Hunter, who subsequently went to prison for his wife in a string of horse killings. Hunter's father died in 1996 before any charges were brought against him. *AP*

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Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

acer

Stock index dips 1.44%

Analysts say market long overdue for deep correction

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STOCK index yesterday fell sharply as investors sold down equities while waiting for corporate earnings to catch up with steep valuations. The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index tumbled by 74.52 points, or 1.44 percent, to close at 5,093.62.

All counters ended in the red. But the worst hit were the financial, holding firm and mining/oil counters, which all fell by over 2.2 percent.

Value turnover amounted to P9.02 billion. There were nearly five losers for every slight advancer.

Jose Vitaro of AB Capital Securities said the market had gone up so sharply this year that a deep correction was bound to happen.

He said the next major support would be at 4,750.

"But we probably won't reach that," Vitaro said.

Other stock dealers echoed that sentiment, saying that the market was undergoing a simple correction, which was necessary for the market to build a strong base to continue its bull run.

According to a joint research paper of First Metro Investment Corp. and University of Asia and the Pacific, which appeared in the recent issue of "The Market Call," the local market's capitalization, as percentage of gross domestic product,

STOCK B7

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
May 14, 2012
42.705

PSEI
STOCK MARKET
May 14, 2012
74.52

Treasury rejects all bids for 91-day, 182-day T-bills

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday rejected all tenders for the 91-day and 182-day treasury bills as investors pushed for higher rates on new notes.

Also, the auction committee awarded just about two-thirds of its offering for the 364-day bill as the rest of the tenders were "unreasonably" higher than prevailing rates in the secondary market.

Assistant Treasurer Roberto S. Tan said in an interview that the auctions committee regarded most of the bids as asking for "very unreasonable rates even if these are meant to catch up from their very aggressive bids" in the previous auctions held two weeks ago.

"The abruptness of the increase in yields being asked is quite unreasonable (and) disturbing," Tan said.

"That is why we decided to reject [most of the bids]," he added.

He said even the more aggressive bids submitted yesterday were higher than those in the secondary market.

"They wanted to recover from the aggressive [or low] bids (they posted) two weeks ago," Tan said. "The market is not as confident as it was before, but this is temporary."

Had the government awarded all its P2 billion offer for the benchmark bill, the yield would have gone up by 40.3 basis points to an average of 2.575 percent.

The yield on the similar-sized offer for the six-month bill would

TREASURY B7

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Property firm reports 310% rise in Q1 profit

Robust growth in residential segment of business

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY developer Century Properties Group reported a 310-percent jump in profit in the first three months of the year to P453.5 million from the level in the same period in 2011.

The profit performance, the company said, was driven by a robust growth in residential property business.

Total revenues in January to March jumped year-on-year by 111 percent to P2.49 billion.

"There continues to be a strong demand for residential property in the Philippines. We have experienced this through our record growth in 2011 and this quarter, contrary to initial concerns about an oversupply of units. After booking P16.1 billion in presales in 2011, Century's presales for first quarter of 2012 was P6.3 billion consisting of 912 units, allowing Century to remain on track to meet P26 billion pre-sales target for 2012," said Century chief financial officer Jose Carlo Asencio.

"Given that the real estate industry is benefiting from a continuous low interest rate regime, expanding population, limited affordable prices and a rise in the middle class where home buying remains to be a prime aspiration, Century has been able to achieve one of the highest growth rates in the real estate sector. It has transformed itself from a mid-scale housing developer to a destination mixed used developer in multiple price points in Metro Manila," Asencio added.

While continuing to develop luxury projects—including the "Trump Tower" blends and mid-income projects in Century City, which are 66 percent and 70 percent pre-sold, respectively—the company has expanded to the middle-income market through Arque Residence in Mandaluyong City.

The company has fully sold three-quarters of its buildings and is currently pre-selling the fourth building, the Livingroom Residences by Modern Home.

The company also cited the success of its "affordable" residential line that project Arcare Urban Residences in Pasdeluper City, which has fully sold five out of nine buildings.

Puregold inks S&R acquisition deal

PUREGOLD Price Club Inc. has finalized its P16.5 billion acquisition of 100 percent of S&R Membership Shopping operator through a share-swap with their common shareholder, the family of Filipino-Chinese businessman Lucio Co.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Monday, Puregold said it had signed the agreement with the sellers of S&R operator Eurella Management Corp. on May 11.

Subject to the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission, as stated in the deed of exchange, Puregold will acquire 1.7 million shares of Eurella representing 100 percent of its outstanding capital stock in exchange for about 766.4 million shares of Puregold with the Co family.

The deal, which is seen enhancing the company's position as the second largest player in the formal retail trade industry, had been approved by Puregold's shareholders in a meeting on the first month. The consolidation will give Puregold S&R a combined market share of close to a fifth of the modern retail trade industry, ranking second in port next to the SM group of retail tycoon Henry Sy.

Puregold has a current market share of 14 percent while S&R has a market share of 5.3 percent.

Eurella, through its membership shopping business, has a membership base of 215,000 nationwide mainly from the A-B market segment, overpowering Puregold's C-D-E market.

Based on its latest filing, Puregold has a gross margin of 16.2 percent and a net margin of 4 percent but S&R enjoys higher corresponding margins of 16.3 percent and 9.9 percent, respectively.

The consolidation is seen boosting the net profit of the publicly listed Puregold by 4.7 percent before the SMC takeover plan was finalized. Puregold was aiming for a net profit of P7.2 billion this year to meet requirement to set earnings per share of P0.97.

S&R was set up in 2000 in partnership with Price Smart of the US and acquired by the Co family in 2006. Operator Eurella has an arms-length in Retailbanc Global City Corporation, Retailbanc Inc. QC, Retailbanc Corporation, Arcosa Industrial park in Batangas, San Fernando in Batangas and Mandaue City in Cebu.

Puregold grew its first quarter profit by 20.3 percent to P469 million seen on-year as robust domestic consumer spending and store openings sustained a double-digit growth in sales.

Doris C. Dumlao

Remembering 'Sell in May and go away!'

A FRIEND reminded me of what I wrote last year about the month of May.

At that time, I suggested the old Wall Street adage to "Sell in May and go away!" as a trading theme and strategy for the month.

Looking back at how the market had been behaving since the start of the month two weeks ago, this market aphorism seemed to have not lost any relevance at all; it looks very much prescient now as it was before.

Especially last week, the market lost so much ground. After losing up 128.58 points or 5,267.92 the week before, it ended down and lower last Friday by 150.61 points or 5,138.34, equivalent to a 2.83 percent loss on a weekly basis.

Unless to think of it, such market sayings would not have been praised if they did not hold or anybody were aware of general truths.

May of last year

Considering the records, the market indeed fell in May last year. This happened after the main index was propelled into a ten upward climb of 192 points in a period of nine week toward the end of March, followed by another 120-point rise in April. This emulated the market curve. Simply said, that, the following May, the market was unable to advance any further during the month, as it succumbed to profit-taking.

Since the market's retreat was only to relieve itself of short-term players, the fall was superficial. The momentum to advance on upward trend remained.

On a monthly basis, the market loss was only about 74.05 points or 1.73 percent from the level in April. This was because the market made two attempts to bend upwards during the month, absorbing the effects of profit taking. These happened after the market fell to lowest session closes on May 6 and May 20, 2011 at 4,294.73 and 4,305.69, respectively.

MARKET RIDER

DAVE SANTOS III

Since the market was technically overbought, it had to take a short respite and consolidate in May. It could not really have gone very far. The fact in May became bound on the larger picture created there, market movements did not end up to any of the chart patterns that led to upward market reversals.

When it hit bottom at 3,705.10 on July 20, the market did go some double-digit-ample pattern withstanding the small rallies that could have transformed and established the market's fall into what are called reversal patterns like the "saucer."

This was confirmed by the market's daily trading volume values as they were hitting bottom. The market's daily trading volume figures were not that low as to assume into a reversal trend attributable to a saucer pattern or into what the book terms as "the awkward clearing formation that is, where there is a low point has reached its low and that the downward trend has come to a close."

It was, therefore, no wonder that the market in May last year was almost patently obvious to fall as it could not but consolidate as a result of the impact of the massive bearish the market adage.

Some narratives

The market adage of "Sell in May and go away!" is a US variant of the so-called "Halloween Indicator" followed by some countries in Europe.

The "Halloween Indicator" held that November to April was the strongest month period of the year, while the following months were the short period, with May as the weakest.

For this reason, investors were said to sell in May and hold on to their funds—possibly investing in fixed income instruments—until autumn, "typically around Halloween," when it was considered suspicious again to buy back stocks.

This, however, seems more as a matter of conventional wisdom than science, for it is "best given serious consideration in academic studies."

It is an adage that has popular support but does not have substantial support. Some scientific evidence that stocks do not perform well every year and I can bet on me to beat your after year and win your game in the market.

Bottom line spin

In summary, the market may again repeat what happened last year that made it did before, it could be as brief as it was last year, too.

And this is going to happen not as a result of the market adage to "Sell in May and go away!" but more of the impact of recent global events that have sent, to quote the title of one financial report, "Wall Street logged its worst week of 2012."

To recall, the threats brought about by these developments had driven global markets to fall before. Investors then had also sent the local market to fall before before; they would again press the market to the next few days with the possibility of driving it to retest the 5,000 level.

Should this happen, the month of May this year could be more of an opportunity to "buy" than "sell." It should be a time to start "selling" stocks because at the 5,000 level, stock prices will turn to be attractive buys based on their estimated company earnings for 2012.

And the best type of stocks that may fit well to this connection will be the so-called "growth" and "turnaround" stocks.

Growth stocks are those whose company earnings are expected to grow faster soon on, even at rates higher than the average rate of earnings in the market.

Turnaround stocks are those that had been out of favor from the investing public because the concerned companies had been performing poorly but due to some new developments, they are found to experience improved financial health, viability and profitability.

(The writer can be e-mailed at mail@wealth-of-Single-Equities Inc. Market Rider can be reached through marketrider@gmail.com, dave@wealthofstocks.com or at www.bigmarket.com.)

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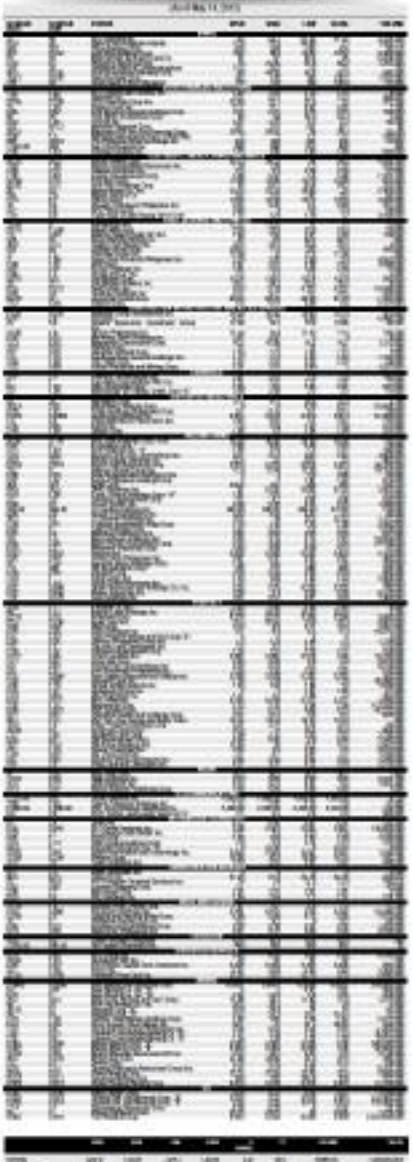

(L-R) Pres. & CEO Rolando B. Avante, Dir. Roberto A. Arandia, Vice Chairman & COO Peter M. Yap, Chairman Francis T. Lee, Chairman Emeritus Amb. Alfredo M. Yao, Dir. Potenciano N. Dizon, Dir. Honorio O. Reyes-Lao, Dir. Jeffrey S. Yao, Dir. Amador T. Valapia, Jr.; not in photo: Dir. Mrs. Lucita M. Yao

Philippine Business Bank Reports P747 Million in 2011

Philippine Business Bank (PBB) (2011 main-tained its quality performance with a net in-come of P747 million. The bank's significant gains was propelled by good interest earn-ings among their loans, investment portfolio, and noteworthy contribution from trading and fee-based revenues.

Despite a strong competitive environment and decreasing interest margins, PBB has been able to sustain its performance. PBB's stable growth in core revenues and the con-trolled spikes in asset quality makes the bank optimistic about its business prospects for 2012.

With PBB's track record of sustaining shareholder value, the bank's expansion at a sound growth with a jump in total income of 49% as of December 31, 2011, amounting to P 1,631 billion compared to P 1.2 was billion in 2010.

Furthermore, the bank's growing loan port-folio revealed a significant rise of 25% amounting to P76.726 billion in 2011. PBB al-so posted a 55% increase in its total deposits amounting to P121.136 billion.

Thus, PBB is on track with its corporate vi-sion for this year.

For 2012, PBB President & CEO Rolando B. Avante said, "the bank is strongly poised to go into the mortgage and auto loan businesses and will also continue to cultivate and continue its focus for loan growth on the same SME market.

Recently, the BSP approved 15 new branches for PBB in Metro Manila and branch-es in Laguna, Cavite, Batangas, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Pasay, Pasig, Quezon City, Taguig, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Makati, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Caloocan, Valenzuela, Malabon, Navotas, Pasay, Pateros

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Notice of Closure of the Representative Office of COVIDIEN PRIVATE LIMITED (formerly Tyco Healthcare Pte Ltd)

Notice is hereby given that COVIDIEN PRIVATE LIMITED (formerly Tyco Healthcare Pte Ltd) has authorized the closure of its Representative Office in the Philippines. In this connection, the Representative Office will cease to transact any business pursuant to its License to Do Business from the Securities and Exchange Commission effective 31 March 2012.

All persons, corporations, partnerships or associations having a claim or claims against the said Representative Office are requested to present the same to John Collado, Country Manager at 19/F Hanston Square, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

This notice shall serve as notice to all concerned of the cessation of business of the Representative Office of COVIDIEN PRIVATE LIMITED (formerly Tyco Healthcare Pte Ltd) effective 31 March 2012.

(PS - May 1, 11, 15, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Mindanao Rural Development Program II
Invitation to Bid for the Rehabilitation of Tinaka-Sta. Niño FMR Subproject No. 01-BAE-SKP-11
Loan No. 1440-PH

May 15, 2012

1. The Government of the Philippines (GoP) has received a loan from the World Bank towards the cost of Mindanao Rural Development Program II and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Loan to payments under the contract for the Rehabilitation of the Tinaka-Sta. Niño FMR(01-BAE-SKP-11.
2. The Municipality of Bagumbayan, implementing partner of the Department of Agriculture, now invites bids for the Rehabilitation of the Tinaka-Sta. Niño FMR. Completion of the Works is required by 180 calendar days. Bidders should have completed, within five (5) years, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II, Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with national procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the RA 9184 (IRR) (R.A. 9184), with some amendments as stated in the bidding documents and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the applicable procurement guidelines of the World Bank. The contract shall be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined to meet during post-qualification: The Estimated Project Cost for this project is **(PhP 19,2[illegible] Two Million Two Hundred Twenty Three Thousand Pesos.**
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee of the Municipality of Bagumbayan and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mondays to Fridays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from May 15, 2012 - June 14, 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the bidding documents in the amount of **Five Thousand Pesos (PhP 5,000.00).**

   It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the **MRDPII** website (http://www.bmdp.net) provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
6. The Municipality of Bagumbayan will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **June 4, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Municipal Budget Office, Bagumbayan, SK which shall be open to all interested parties.
7. Bids must be delivered on or before **June 15, 2012 at 10:00** a.m. at the Municipal Budget Office, Bagumbayan, SK. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of Php 256,000.00 in the form of Cash/ Certified (cashier's, manager's) check or in the form of a Bank Guarantee.

   Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. The Municipality of Bagumbayan reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
9. For further information, please refer to:

ANDRADA E. GAMBOAS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Municipal Bagumbayan, SK, 8010
Telefax: 554-356-7500

(Sgd.) BAC Chairman
on Authorized Representative of the BAC Chairman

(PNA-May 15, 2012)

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San Sebastian Parish	7:00 A.M.
St. Anthony's Shrine	6:15 A.M.
Our Lady of Lourdes	6:00 A.M.
St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine	6:00 A.M.
National Shrine of St. Michael & the Archangels (San Miguel, Quiapo)	8:00 A.M.
Santuario Rosario Parish Church	6:00 A.M.
Mother of Perpetual Help (Baclaran)	6:45 A.M.
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PH banks' resources rose 6.8% in February

With income levels up, depositors said to be saving more

By Michelle V. Ramos

BANKS' resources rose 6.8 percent in February to P7.54 trillion—up from the P7.06 trillion reported in the same month last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

Monetary officials believe that the rise in the banking sector's resources—which include deposits, retained earnings and capital—may trigger an increase in lending, something the economy needs this year to accelerate growth following last year's slowdown.

Officials said the rise in banks' resources was driven largely by an increase in deposits—a consequence of modestly rising incomes that allowed people and enterprises to save more.

BSP data showed that universal and commercial banks accounted for bulk of the resources with P6.78 trillion. It was 7.1 percent higher than the P6.29 trillion of February last year.

Universal and commercial banks, which cater to the financial needs of large enterprises, have been urged to increase their loans to the public.

They are encouraged to use their resources to fund big ticket investment projects, such as public infrastructure being pushed by the government.

Also, thrift banks accounted for P592.60 billion of the sector's total resources as of end-February. This was up by 6.6 percent from the P555.66 billion of the same month last year.

Rural banks accounted for P181.64 billion of the sector's resources—up by 2.2 percent from the P178.46 billion reported in the same period.

Thrift and rural banks are encouraged to accelerate lending to micro, small, and medium enterprises (SMEs). Lending to small businesses will help reduce poverty incidence by improving the plight of low-income earners, BSP officials.

According to economists, the Philippines is growing, but the benefits of growth have not translated into poverty reduction.

The economy grew by 5.7 percent last year, slowing down from the 7.6 percent rate reported in 2010.

The BSP said the rising resources of banks in the country should help them accelerate growth in lending and help counter last year's economic slowdown.

Outstanding loans from banks grew by nearly 20 percent in 2011 to about P3.7 trillion.

The BSP said that despite the substantial growth in loans last year, banks now have even more resources to further expand their lending activities.

Kepco-SPC taps NGCP facilities in Visayas

By Arra B. Benitez

KEPCO SPC Power Corp. has been given the green light by the Energy Regulatory Commission to start using PGC-million worth of transmission facilities in the delivery of power from its 200-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Naga, Cebu to the Visayas grid.

The ERC said the decision would result in a "reliable, continuous and sufficient supply of power at reasonable costs."

The ERC also said Kepco-SPC's use of the facilities owned by National Grid Corporation of the Philippines would have no rate impact on the company's customers—distribution utilities and electric cooperatives—since existing power supply contracts already covered the cost of point-to-point transmission.

Kepco-SPC has power supply deals with Mactan Electric Co., VRC Rural Electric Service Cooperative Inc. (Visrural), Negros Oriental 2 Electric Cooperative Inc. (Noreco II), Cebu Electric Cooperatives Inc. (Cebeco I), Cebu Electric Cooperatives Inc. (Cebeco II), Central Negros Electric Cooperatives Inc. (Centrico) and Negros Occidental Electric Cooperative Inc. (Norveco).

According to the ERC, the use of the 230-kilovolt transmission line proved to be more economical and prudent for Kepco-SPC than using the facilities of another power plant.

It said the power from Kepco-SPC would also contribute to the so-called N-1 contingency of the Visayas grid. "N-1 contingency" refers to the ability of a power grid to withstand the lost of a major system component with minimal disruption to the grid.

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PHILEX PETROLEUM CORPORATION

Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders

TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS:

Please be informed that the regular **Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of PHILEX PETROLEUM CORPORATION** will be held on Thursday, May 17, 2012 at 2:30 p.m. at the Dusit Thani Hotel, Ayala Center, Makati City (the "Annual Stockholders' Meeting"). The order of business thereat will be as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of required notice of the meeting
3. Certification of quorum
4. Reading of the minutes of the previous stockholders' meetings and action thereon
5. Presentation of annual reports and Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 2011 and action thereon
6. Ratification and approval of the acts of the Board of Directors and executive officers during the year 2011 to 2012
7. Appointment of independent auditors
8. Election of directors
9. Other matters
10. Adjournment

For the purpose of the meeting, only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 14, 2012 will be entitled to vote thereat. Please bring some form of identification, such as passport, driver's license, or company I.D. in order to facilitate registration, which will start at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes of the last stockholder's meeting and resolutions of the Board of Directors will be available for examination during office hours at the office of the Corporate Secretary.

BARBARA ANNE C. DELALLOS
Corporate Secretary

Atlas sees 16% growth in copper shipments

ATLAS Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. aims to jack up by 16 percent the volume of copper concentrates shipped out of the Toledo mine, which is operated by flagship subsidiary Carmen Copper Corp. (CCC) this 2012.

Atlas vice president and director Ashlar Ramos on Friday said that goal this year would be to make 20 to 30 shipments equivalent to about 80 million pounds (lb) of copper this year. This would amount to about $100 million based on the company's [illegible] global price range of $1.60 to $1.90/lb. this year.

This will translate to a 3.4 percent increase in its shipment value from $250 million for 69 million lb of copper last year. The growth in value was expected to be slower than the increase in volume because global prices have softened this year, compared to last year when CCC sold copper concentrates for almost $3 per lb, Ramos said.

Typically, demand for base metals like copper track the performance of the global economy, which is widely expected to falter this year due to the weak economic performance of the United States, Europe and Japan, and the softening of China's economy.

Ramos said demand for copper in the new few years would still be good. Although China's growth is softening, he said it was unlikely that it would suffer from a hard landing.

Most of CCC's copper exports are consigned to Chinese smelters and shipped through MRI Trading AG. There are some shipments going to Korea, Ramos said. "They love our product because it's clean," he said.

For April, Ramos said the three shipments made by CCC was a record for the Atlas group since it resumed copper production in 2008. It was earlier reported that CCC had posted $34.66 million worth of metal exports in April, with 8.58 million pounds of payable copper. This beat the company's March 2012 record of $19 million, with 3.16 million pounds of payable copper.

The group has about 40,000 to 45,000 daily throughput, up from about 30,000 processed daily last year. The long-term goal is to process more than 60,000 daily. Hitting throughput refers to an area of know-how mines want to optimize strong market demand and high prices.

On the entry of the SM group in mine, Ramos said this was in line with the goal of "bringing a strong strategic partner in the company. The Concepcion family also recently invested in the company as a portfolio positioning.

Asked whether more institutional investors would come in, Ramos said: "As we're trying to educate investors about the company, we would definitely like to bring in institutional investors... real long equity funds."

The Atlas group's reserve ranking area has a life span of about 16 years. It has estimated mining reserves of about 400 million tons of copper and a total resource of about 1.1 billion tons. "One of our strategy is to increase reserves," he said.

Power Situation Outlook
for Tuesday, 15 May 2012

[illegible]	9,016	1,160	1,310
[illegible]	7,205	1,410	1,350
[illegible]	1,120	350	-50

Hyundai vehicle sales up 35% in first 4 months

By Amy R. Remo

SALES of Hyundai vehicles rose by 35 percent to 6,056 units in the first four months of 2012, from 4,419 units reported in the same period last year.

Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (Hari) said that for April alone, the company's [illegible] sales rose by 11 percent to 1,891 units from 1,707 units sold in the same month last year.

"We begin the second quarter with a strong sales performance based on a continued favorable business climate and positive consumer outlook. Our strong vehicle portfolio and the entry of new models coupled with aggressive brand building efforts will allow us to go through the remainder of the year," said Hari president and CEO Mr. Ki Hwa Agoda.

Growth in the first four months can be attributed to the 113-percent surge in the sales of Hyundai passenger cars to 3,396 units this year from 2,534 units a year ago.

Models in the passenger car segment, such as the i10, Accent and Elantra, helped boost overall sales.

While passenger car models contributed to 69% up growth, there was a slowdown in the sale of light commercial vehicles (LCV) due to delayed arrival of shipments.

According to Hari, its LCV sales fell by 16 percent to 1,262 units in the first four months of this year from 2,086 units a year ago. For April alone, total LCV sales declined by 25 percent to 792 units from the 1,062 units it sold in the same period last year.

Hari said it was entering the second quarter of the year on a positive note with sustained optimistic consumer outlook.

It cited Nielsen's Global Consumer Index, which stated that the Philippines was in the top 11 of the most optimistic countries in the world.

First Gen raises ₱10B through shares issuance

By Amy R. Remo

LOPEZ-led First Gen Corp. has raised P10 billion from the issuance of 100 million Series "G" perpetual preferred shares last week.

First Gen president Francis Giles Puno said through a text message yesterday that the company was able to "upsize on a P10-billion issuance" after its issue manager and underwriters for the offer had oversubscribed the over-subscription option.

In a separate disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, First Gen and BDO Capital and Investment Corp. had taken up the over-subscription option of 30 million Series G preferred shares.

The cumulative, nonvoting, nonparticipating, nonconvertible preferred shares Series "G" shares, priced at P100 apiece, will be listed on the bourse on May 16.

First Gen earlier said it was looking at two options on how to use the proceeds from the said issuance. One was to use the bulk or P6.5 billion to fund the company's acquisition this year, which may be undertaken directly or indirectly by any of its affiliates and subsidiaries.

Specifically, this referred to the acquisition of the 40 percent stake of The Hidden Gas (BG) Group in the two natural gas-fired power plants in Batangas, which FirstGen co-owns and operates.

First Gen still owns 60 percent of First Gen Holdings, the parent company of First Gas Power Corp., while the remaining 40 percent is held by the BG Group.

Puno said that should the opportunity arise, the company is prepared to acquire the 40 percent stake of the BG Group as it intends to earmark for this purpose the proceeds of its planned issuance of preferred shares.

Another option is earmark P3.7 billion for the redemption of its redeemable bonds and another P5.8 billion to make a partial payment of the debt of its affiliate, Red Volcanic Power do Oro Ltd/Ltd., Inc. and Rockwell Geothermal Inc.—"Rust and Investments Group are the creditors of Red Volcanic, which is the holding company for First Gen's economic stake in Energy Development Corp.

The proceeds of the offer will likewise be used for general corporate purposes. These include working capital, interest expenses and business development-related expenses, the apportioning of which amount has yet to be determined.

Po invests P3B in 5-star Marco Polo Ortigas Hotel

313-room deluxe hotel in Ortigas Center to open by end-2013

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GROUP of businessmen-financier Po has ventured into property development for the first time by investing P3 billion in a new five-star hotel in Ortigas that will be managed by Marco Polo Hotels.

The 313-room Marco Polo Ortigas (hotel) will open by end-2013 and will be the newest five-star hotel in the Ortigas center/business district.

The hotel, which is now under construction, is right beside Union Bank building on Meralco Avenue.

Po, president and chief executive officer of Tan Yan Kee Foundation Corp., also heads JS Utilidade Merchandise, a leading manufacturer of paper hygiene products in the Philippines with annual revenues of over P120 million.

JS Utilidade sells baby diaper brands EQ Plus and EQ Dry, adult diapers Caress and Dr. J and Charisse female hygiene pads.

Xin Tian Di and top officials of Marco Polo Hotels signed on Monday the management contract for Marco Polo Ortigas Hotel, which is the third Philippine hotel in Marco Polo's portfolio. Next is China, the Philippines' will then have the most number of Marco Polo Hotels in Asia.

"Marco Polo Hotels has been known for its excellent services and five-star signature touches. We are incredibly excited to be affiliated with this reputable hotel brand in Asia Pacific for the Marco Polo Ortigas, a P3-billion investment," Po said, adding this investment was his group's answer to the government's call for fresh investments in tourism.

In late 2011, the government launched a new tourism campaign - "It's More Fun in the Philippines" - which has been well received by the local and global markets.

"Our rapid growth and development in the Philippines and China has further strengthened our brand across Asia Pacific and throughout Asia Pacific," said Herb Hotchandani, Marco Polo Hotels president.

Hotchandani said this hotel in Ortigas would be different from the market served by the five-star Marco Polo Hotels in the country one in Davao and the other in Cebu.

Apart from the traditional leisure-oriented market, the Marco Polo executive said the Ortigas hotel would serve more business travelers from the overseas market.

Ortigas is one of the busiest central business districts in Metro Manila after Makati.

"In Ortigas, hotels are enjoying a high occupancy rate as we have only nine five-star hotel there and ours will be the newest five-star hotel. We will definitely lift the standards for five-star hotels," Po said.

Marco Polo Hotels is a wholly owned subsidiary of Hong Kong-based The Wharf (Holdings) Ltd.

IN CHINA, COOPERATION. Cayetano Paez Pardo, Minister of Finance of Peru, engaged in a courtesy call on Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima on the sidelines of the recently-concluded 45th ADB Annual Meetings of the Board of Governors in Manila. The two officials discussed ways to strengthen the bilateral ties between the two countries.

Successful pork holiday

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

MGMT backpaid senior producers who did not sell pork on April 27 to 28 remember their Pork Holiday a big success.

Many believed that significant results were achieved, which would not have been possible otherwise. However, their success showed the failure of some government institutions.

During the past six weeks, senior producers have used several measures to stop the rampant smuggling that is causing them irreparable damage.

Having gotten little help from known government officials and government instruments like the Secretary of Agriculture and Fisheries Council (SAFC), the senior producers' ranks mobilized page ads on March 28 and April 2 asking for anti-smuggling action.

There was no satisfactory response.

They then held a national conference from April 19 to 20 in Cebu. Some officials came, but still no result.

Finally, the backpaid owners took the desperate but costly move of staging a Pork Holiday.

According to Dionisio Tan of the Swine Development Board, it was a big sacrifice to have pork sales for two days. The intention was not "economic sabotage" as some claimed.

It was a way to alert the powers that be and the nation to what might happen if rampant smuggling kills the pork industry.

Today, 70 percent of pork producers are small backyard raisers. In the past two years, 30 percent have lost their livelihood because of smuggling.

DA results

After the Pork Holiday, Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala ordered four key measures:

1. The DA will provide accurate reference values on a monthly basis for swine products to correct the currently undervalued numbers that the Bureau of Customs (BOC) uses. For example, the DA recommends an average reference price for pork products of P207.20/kg. instead of the P27.36/kg reference value the BOC has.

2. The DA Quarantine Officers will now take an active role in stopping smuggling attempts. For example, he will look at the price the importer uses and compare it with the correct reference price, as well as the importer's tax payment record. If there is something irregular, he will withhold the quarantine clearance.

3. The DA Quarantine Officers will inspect the import documents before the BOC makes its final assessment and evaluation. This is a practice in other countries, which will now be done here.

4. DA will accredit and monitor all cold storage establishments. This is where smuggled goods are kept to avoid detection. DA intends to do this for other sectors such as fisheries, which is similarly victimized by smuggling.

DOF-BOC results

Last May 2, swine producers held a press conference in regard to our DA's favorable action after the Pork Holiday. However, they said that they would stage a five-day Pork Holiday if they still get no satisfactory action from the BOC. The Bantay Kita Movement and the nation-wide rebel might happen if rampant smuggling kills the pork industry.

Today, 70 percent of pork producers are small backyard raisers. In the past two years, 30 percent have lost their livelihood because of smuggling.

To the credit of Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, he called a meeting the very next working day to address this issue. Since he was not feeling well, he sent Finance Undersecretary Carlos Cuaresma with BOC Commissioner Ruffy Biazon, Agriculture Secretary Alcala, and pork producers.

This meeting achieved three significant results.

1. The BOC finally agreed to give the Inward Foreign Manifest (IFM) automatically to DA. Since the IFM provides critical import data two weeks before the cargo arrives, the DA will now have the information necessary to confiscate the smuggled goods and charge the suspected smugglers upon the imported products arrival.

2. The BOC will have a task force that will give special attention to enhanced smuggling through undervaluation by using correct reference values.

3. The review and cleaning up of the accredited importers list, which is full of 'fly by night operators' who are actually the smugglers, is now given as a special task to the BOC Intelligence Division under Deputy Commissioner Emeka Lim.

Conclusion

The April 27-28 Pork Holiday showed significant results from DA. The announcement of a possible five-day Pork Holiday also got a favorable response from DOF-BOC. Thus, this plan is now indefinitely postponed.

If we want a progressive country, Pork Holiday should not occur. They show that the government institutions are not working as they should. It is time that government becomes proactive. Inform P-Noy's directive of "Run ang bus-lo", and strengthen its institutions.

The most practical suggestion is to create a Private-Public Partnership Against Smuggling (PPPAS) overnight group that will meet monthly to recommend and monitor anti-smuggling action. This way, Pork Holidays will be a thing of the past.

The author is chair of Agri-watch, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatch_phil@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 4521137.

Thai firm ups stake in PH plant

BANGKOK—Thailand's second-largest private power producer, Electricity Generating Public Company Ltd. (EGCO), said on Monday it would spend $275 million to buy an additional 45.875 percent stake in Quezon power plant in the Philippines.

The transaction, supposed to be completed in the second quarter, will raise EGCO's holding in Quezon Power to 98 percent. Quezon owns and operates a 503-MW coal-fired power plant.

The deal would also include a 160 percent stake in Interlink Management Services (Philippines) Co., which provides project management and administrative services in Quezon Power. EGCO said it is a statement to the stock exchange. REUTERS

Power barge sale pushes through

By Alvin R. Barias

STATE-RUN Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) will push through with the bidding of three diesel-fired power barges on May 30, marking the resumption of the government's privatization activities.

In a statement, PSALM said it was able to finalize all the necessary government requirements to allow it to conduct a bid. The bid is set for Power Barges 101, 102, 103 and 104, which can generate 50 megawatts each.

PSALM president and chief executive officer Emmanuel R. Ledesma Jr. noted that the decision to pursue the five privatization activity since 2010 was in line with "PSALM's mandate in the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) and with the guidance and support of the PSALM Board."

Ledesma disclosed that the number of prospective bidders that had qualified for the bidding was trimmed down to seven investor groups from 11.

All of those groups were given ample time to prepare and finalize their respective offers.

The qualified bidders submitted their documentary deliverables before the April 16 deadline.

According to Ledesma, the seven eligible bidders have until 11 noon this Wednesday to submit their official offers for the power barges, after which the opening and evaluation of bids will commence.

Commissioned in 1981, power barges 101 and 102 are currently stationed at Sta. Oliveros in Iloilo City.

PB Nos. 103 and 104, which began operation in 1995, are moored in Bonifacio, Estancia, Iloilo, and at the Toledo Commercial, Kong, Davao City, respectively.

Roxas Holdings net profit as of March rises 29%

LEADING sugar producer Roxas Holdings grew its net profit in the six-month period ending March by 29 percent year-on-year to P650 million at cost controls as well as improved margins and debt-profile offset lower revenues arising from relatively lower sugar prices.

RHI chair Jesus Roxas disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Monday that the company's cash flow based on earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization for the first half of its fiscal year...which ends in September—reached nearly P1 billion, a major improvement relative to previous levels.

"Our efforts to control costs and manage our margins are starting to bear fruit," he said.

Revenues dipped to P4.5 billion in the six-month period compared to P4 billion in the comparative level, primarily due to a sharp drop in the selling prices of sugar.

But RHI president Renato Roxas noted that the company was tightening, restructuring its business segments and streamlining its operations to prepare for the reduction of tariff on sugar imports from 38 percent to 5 percent in 2015, as well as a possible regime of low sugar prices in the coming years.

"We have restructured our term loans and secured three years' grace period on principal amortization to give us time to accumulate enough cash to pay down these loans in the coming years," he added.

He also said the company was trying not only by being down its overhead and interest burden, but also its production costs.

"For this purpose, the company recently hired a foreign expert to do a technical audit of our sugar milling and refinery operations," he said.

The company's massive net-contaminated resources brought down its cost of sales by 25 percent to P2.8 billion from last year's P3.3 billion.

"The bulk of our cost of sales comes from energy cost. To address this, our plants now primarily run using bagasse as a cheaper and cleaner alternative to bunker fuel," Zalamea explained.

"It is also worth noting that the improvements we have made in our operations and to cash management substantially reduced our debt level by P3 billion since last year," Valencia declared.

"We expect to sustain the momentum and deliver positive results to our shareholders by yearend," he said. Doris C. Dumlao

From page B1

Stock index dips 1.44%

had already breached historic levels.

Still, earnings have yet to catch up, the PSBC-DAB analysts indicated.

"Surprisingly, early reports indicated that company earnings were not major contributors and upgrades in forecasts may be warranted," the analysts said.

The research also said that reducing investment from "overweight" to "neutral" would be prudent given the expensive valuations.

But PSBC-DAB said the discount-based flows to the Philippines remained resilient. Nevertheless, it noted that some investors were unleveraging a "sell in May and go away" strategy to look in early gains.

"It may be prudent to keep a neutral position just to note the rally in Philippine equities continues," the research said.

While the market is likely to move higher on bullish sentiment, PSBC-DAB said caution would always be a good strategy.

Page further equity in stock prices would be the result of positive surprises in earnings forecasts. So far, Philippine equities may have already priced in the market strong economic growth and 12-month forward earnings per share," the research said.

Stocks that weighed down the PSEi were Metrobank, SM Investments, UBC, ALI, Megaworld, BDO, DMCI, SM, SLI, SM Prime and BPI.

The lucky few that bucked the day's downturn were GMA and Semirara.

From page B1

Treasury rejects all bids for 91-day, 182-day T-bills

also have gone up by 71.4 basis points to 2.992 percent if the entire offer was awarded.

As for the year-long debt paper, the yield went down by 5.6 basis points to 3.500 percent, with the government raising P0.4 billion instead of the planned P3.5 billion.

The resulting average was 21.2 basis points lower than the 2.61 percent prevailing at Philippine Exchange and Dealing Corp. at the time of the auction.

If it were a bid award, rates would have gone up by 20.8 basis points to an average of 2.792 percent.

All issues were oversubscribed as investors made available a total of P9.38 billion against the total offer of P9 billion.

Buyers tendered P5.97 billion, P2.4 billion and P1.95 billion respectively for the 91-day, 182-day and 364-day bills—all of which were less than twice the rollover offered.

TV5 claims market share of 18% for '11

By Paolo G. Montecillo

MANSIL V. Hemgilanes Jr.s television network Associated Broadcasting Corp. (ABC), operator of TV5, saw its market share grow substantially in 2011, although saying itself as a serious player in the broadcast sector.

From a negligible fraction of 2.3 percent in 2010, TV5 said it ended 2011 with an 18 percent share in television, including its emerging revenue-niche Move-Ahead.

Per nationwide rankings, TV5 grew in share to 15.6 percent from 2.7 percent of industry revenues.

This year, the company aims to further strengthen its position in the industry, with the help of a recent investment from Philippine-Asia Telecom Telephone Co. (PLDT).

TV5 is a unit of MediaQuest Holdings, a publicly-owned subsidiary of the PLDT conglomerate through Sear Fund.

Constitutional restrictions prohibit companies with foreign shareholders from entering voting rights to local media outlets.

Earlier this month, PLDT announced that it would invest P6 billion in MediaQuest, through the purchase of the latter's Philippine Depository Receipts—a form of security that carries no voting rights.

In a statement on Monday officials said the investment in MediaQuest, which will be used for the expansion of TV5 and affiliate satellite TV provider Cignal, would help transform the PLDT group from a voice-centric conglomerate to a company into a multimedia conglomerate.

Cignal, for its part, is the country's largest direct-to-home satellite TV provider with over 250,000 subscribers.

Hemgilanes said TV5 will serve as the anchor for the PLDT Group's media offerings through the creation of exclusive, generation of new revenue streams, and providing a platform to leverage its 'Pinoy' sports markets worldwide." PLDT president and CEO Napoleon Nazareno said.

"We would define new revenue streams as we use the content to increase subscribership," he continued, saying the group's various platforms and maximize advertising potential available from the sizeable subscriber base of the group," he added.

PLDT, owned by Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd and Japan's NTT DoCoMo, has over 67 million mobile phone subscribers, translating to a 67-percent share in the country's lucrative telecommunications market.

GLOBE LAUNCHES THE COUNTRY'S FIRST END-TO-END DEDICATED CLOUD SOLUTION

Globe Business

Globe Business recently introduced the country's first ever dedicated cloud solution for enterprises. The comes amid rising concerns over security and privacy issues. Dubbed as Dynamic Infrastructure Services or DIS, this innovative solution was launched last March 23, 2012 at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

Globe Business Head Jesus Romero welcomed representatives from more than 100 corporations to the much-anticipated event. Also on hand to lend their support were Globe President and CEO Ernest L. Cu, Globe Business Enterprise Segments Head Grace J. Castillo, and Globe Business Products & Services Head Francisco J. Claravall.

To illustrate the salient advantages of this pioneering cloud service, an entertaining case scenario AVP was featured, starring some of Globe Business' top executives. This set the tone for the evening's main event, which was a head-to-head comparison between traditional servers and the new DIS service of Globe Business. And DIS did not disappoint, proving to be faster, more productive and more resilient than traditional servers. Ably steered by Winston Damarillo of Morphlabs, a Filipino-founded, US-based company that's at the cutting edge of cloud computing today, the walkthrough certainly got the audience's attention.

Globe Business DIS reduces the complexity of cloud computing by using pre-configured and fully-tested components so businesses can have private clouds at a lower cost. With DIS, companies now have the capability to develop their own applications for their specific requirements. They can now upload and download data to and from Globe's secure storage facilities, giving them faster processing power without the high cost of purchasing additional servers.

Experience Dynamic Infrastructure Services and find out more about Globe Business products and services by calling +6221730-1288. You may also email customersupport@globebusiness.com.ph or visit www.globe.com.ph/business.

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LIFESTYLE Wellness

Women who Zumba

'I got my groove back,' says actress Ina Raymundo

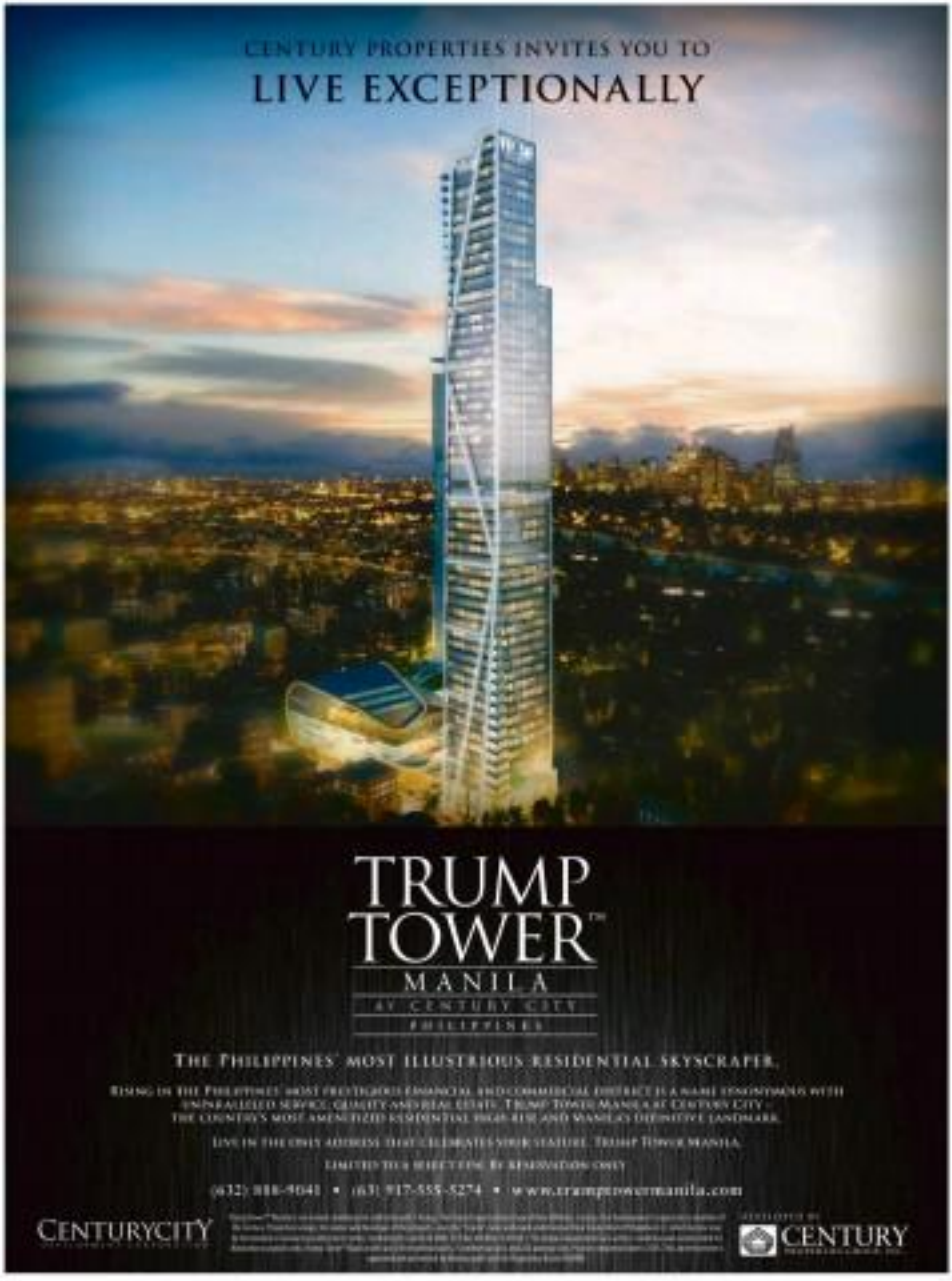
By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

AFTER GIVING birth, dancer-actress Ina Raymundo bought a Zumba instructional DVD just before the trend hit Manila. Aside from getting back in shape, doing Zumba at home with her oldest daughter, Erika, was an opportunity to bond.

However, she had to stop the video workouts when she had knee pain. Ina was dancing to slippers and doing some high-impact maneuvers on a hard floor at home. She has been going to the hospital to strengthen the muscles around her knees.

Still, the tinsula didn't stop her from following her passion. Ina has been taking Zumba classes at Pluma Fortus studio and says dancing in a class is safer (what with the right flooring), more fun and more productive than doing a home video workout.

Aside from burning fat, it pumps up her blood. "I monitor my heart rate and it averages 120 to 160 beats per minute, which is good."



This workout is as fun as being in Boracay

Neon-colored outfits and Latin rhythms are trademarks of this fitness craze that has 'transformed lives,' says visiting Brazilian Zumba teacher Enrique Salomao

By Margie C. Enriquez
Correspondent

"LIFE CHANGING!" is how Brazilian Enrique Salomao describes Zumba Fitness.

"Zumba has transformed people's lives all over the world in different ways, such as weight loss. They start to use better to complement the positive exercise. Those suffering with depression have an 'If Moment' more often. That inspires me to keep on going. That makes me feel younger. Instructors get more jobs or more opportunities to have their own business. It gave me a chance to be recognized in the industry and share my passion with a lot of people," said Salomao.

Referred to as a ZES (Zumba Education Specialist), he is solely conducted a master training and certification program at Planet Infinity in Quezon City.

"I'm 37, but I'm healthier now than when I was 17. In Zumba, people feel confident and sexy. It empowers people."

It couldn't have been more life changing than it was for the bearded, Colombian fitness instructor Alberto "Beto" Perez, 40's-ish, who was encouraged to bring the music for his aerobics class, he made do with his personal collection of Latin rhythms and winged his choreography. The class was memorized.

Where he moved to Ghana in 1991, he brought his dance workout and built up a cult following. One day, the mother of Alberto Perlman, an investor, phoned 11 entrepreneurs, urged him to watch Perez's class. The atmosphere was like a fun party taken into a fitness studio.

Perlman married his business partner Alberto Anghoen, and with Beto, they established Zumba Fitness, which sold its intellectual object through infomercials. Zumba's popularity soared when it built its network of instructors to 125 countries.

Apparel and shoes

"The license belongs to the instructor, not the gym. We a gym to have a Zumba class, they need a licensed instructor," said Salomao. Subsequently, the veteran capitalized on the Zumba craze with his neon-colored apparel and shoes, videos, educational agreements and contracts with Pinball and Wynid Jeans.

Salomao explained that Zumba has a cross-cultural feel with its mixture of 70 percent Latin music and 30 percent international rhythms. They range from samba, cumbia, merengue, salsa and hip-hop to belly dance and Bollywood.

"You're taking people through different parts of the world in an hour," says Salomao. "It's got this mind body effect, where you make people think that they're anywhere in the world. When I teach Zumba, I feel I'm in Boracay—one in the room—having a good time."

Zumba isn't just shaking your booty, moving from side to side, pivoting and waving your arms. Salomao pointed out that the workout follows a scientific formula. "The movements are taught to combine fast and slow rhythms for maximum training. Cardio training, aerobics interval training and strength training are all part of it. The more vitals the rhythms, the more it creates confusion, and the muscles work harder to adapt and therefore burn more calories," said Salomao.

The interval-based training applied in the dancing and moving with short intervals of rest. 30 seconds to wipe off the sweat and drink water) actually increases the post-exercise metabolism and thereby encourages weight loss.

NEWLY certified Zumba instructors and fitness buffs at Zumba master class.

PHOTOS BY RAMON MUNOZ

ZUMBA education specialist Enrique Salomao with personal trainer-Zumba instructor Malaya Conde and Krista Enrique

IT DOESN'T feel like an exercise because you are having fun.

"When you start a Zumba class with a fast rhythm, your heart rate goes up. As you move to a slower rhythm, you use your heart, body and mind. The brain awakens a different level so you don't feel as if you're exercising, but having a powerful moment."

Part of the Zumba blends is the attire that comes in fluorescent colors and wild prints and fun shoes. "I've been to Boracay in the Philippines that are colorful. Our colors show our identity and how happy we are," said Salomao.

Zumba asks everybody in clothing the disabled. "We've had people with mental and physical disability. You can move the upper body clap and shimmy your shoulders. In Zumba, if the mind feels good, the body replies."

Deconditioned market

There's Zumba Gold, a slower-paced workout with more transition steps for people of a certain age and modified movements for the deconditioned market. In Aqua Zumba, you're working against the resistance of water. Zumba Atomic is for kids under 12 who learn basic dance steps to shows in their parents' Zumba. Toning uses one to two-pound weights with toning sticks that make sounds when shaken.

"Zumba Toning develops endurance, but use light weights with more repetitions that will make your muscles sculpt. The toning stick sounds like maracas, so you're part of the music in a class," says Salomao.

Malaya Conde, a personal trainer at Planet Infinity, can easily pump 40 lb for the upper body. She after working out with the two-pound toning sticks, she feels her muscles burning. In four months of teaching almost every day, she has 16 lb of fat while maintaining her muscle mass.

"It's amazing cardio for those who don't like boring treadmills. They think the treadmill burns a lot of calories, which it doesn't. In Zumba, you go for the same goals—cardio and fat burning, but you're having loads of fun," said Conde. Depending on your effort and the intensity of the class, Zumba can burn 350-500 calories an hour.

She pointed out that Zumba can engage the gym-shy people to work out. "Zumba is a bridge for women to get into weight training or other more intense programs. Although it's a lot of dancing, you do functional movements like squats. Some dances include pushups. Zumba Toning does workouts for the arms—la, sup-curls and bi-set-over rows."

Conde has taught in her church, where prayerful women unleashed their exhibitions at the gym. MMA fighters and bodybuilders were on to be more into the dance workout than the sessions. "You don't actually Zumba just for weight loss, but for enjoyment," she said.

Planet Infinity is at Unimod 77 Esteban Ignacia Ave. corner Scout Rayes, 1102 Quezon City, tel. 3764312.

Women who Zumba

From page C1

Ina feels leaner and more toned. Despite having bone bulk, she's kept her curvaceous figure thanks to eating five meals in small portions, strength training at the gym and doing Zumba for cross-training.

Zumba gives that liberating response that enables people to come out of their shell and 'limber up,' Ina adds. "When you dance, you tend to feel crazy in dancing. With Zumba, I get my groove back. It's sexy and the Latin music is engaging."

Her plans to revive Zumba home workouts with her daughters. "They love to dance and they've got rhythm."

Ina advises women to wear the right shoes for Zumba to cushion the impact of the jumps and fun footwork.

Not a dance class

At Plaza Fortis, instructor Julie Angelo Carreon runs Zumba Mix and Toning. "This is not a dance class." She tells the participants that if the moves are too fast or too complicated for them, they can just move laterally, march in place and raise their hands to the best of the ability.

"Even if Julie says it's not a dance class, it feels like one," says Ira Legaspinos, director of LCGorp., which owns the Plaza Fortis studio.

Ira said Zumba's combination of marathon complements the Plaza Fortis classes which targets the smaller muscle groups that support the big muscle groups. "After taking Zumba five days a week, I lost weight quickly. My clothes got looser and my knees were not."

After a Zumba class, she feels exhilarated. "The endorphins are high after an hour of intense workout. I look forward to each class because it's always different."

She is proud of instructors Carreon and Gino Ong, both dancers, who were handpicked by David Weiss, Zumba education specialist for South East Asia and China, to be the three contestants in the Zumba Launch in the Philippines.

Ira's move in her Tina Legdimen, marketing director of Go Nuts Donuts, said Zumba builds endurance. "After a run, I feel like pursuing out. But after Zumba, I feel supreme out!"

Part of Tina's job is to train doughnuts every week. "With Zumba, I burn for the doughnuts so I can eat again."

Zumba is Sandy Cruz for Mendez Gonzales Manimtim of LifeCycles events company and her daughter Bea. "I lost weight without having to diet," says Mendez on the benefits of Zumba.

Bea adds, "When I'm too lazy to work out, I do Zumba. It doesn't feel like exercise."

Former gymnast and SEA Games medalist Danica Calayan has found expression in Zumba. "No one will judge you if you're right or wrong. I love the group energy!"

Planet Fortis is at 6/F Jacinto Bldg., 2286 Drive, McKinley Business Park, Bonifacio Global City; tel. 6917-ZUMBA(92 and 5536878).

Rick Buenaventa gets a balance high.

PAL says doing Zumba is close to more productive than listening to our inflight video.

Ira Legaspinos shows the Middle Eastern dance influence.

TINA Legaspinos and instructor Julie Angelo Carreon find Zumba as a perfect cross-training for Plaza Fortis.

PHOTOS BY RAMON MUNOZ

DANICA Calayan finds empowerment in Zumba.

Life is full of 'O, wow' moments for this young actor

For new Oishi endorser Elmo Magalona, there's joy in the little things, from family moments to sharing favorite snacks

By Irene C. Perez

Pilli Magalona, Oishi marketing consultant Pon Bagus, Elmo Magalona, marketing VP Shera Tio, assistant marketing communication manager Cherie Ann Gow

ELMO Magalona: "Maintain a positive vibe, openness and enjoy little surprises."

ELMO MAGALONA believes that dodging the negative will help you survive and enjoy the challenging teen years. "Positivity affects your life—how you think, how you react to everything around you. Easy to say and hard to do, but when you actually do, it's really helpful."

It also helps to enjoy the little things that come along, and to open up to everyday surprises.

Elmo's cool, wholesome vibe makes him the ideal endorser for Oishi snack food. He was recently introduced as the brand's "O, Wow" campaign spokesperson during a lunch at Chef Asia restaurant in Rockwell, Makati. The Oishi "O, Wow" campaign celebrates simple moments that make people "wow."

The teen celebrity rapper, singer, actor is the Sunday sweetheart show "Party Pilipinas," and stars in the new weekly sitcom called "Pasaya na ang Simula," both on GMA-7. In between, he's shooting a film with the award-winning actor Gina Alajar, directed by Mike Alejandro. He enjoys his role opposite veteran "love team" partner Julie Anne San Jose.

Kuya' Elmo

A few of his Face ang young girls, who are chummy in his group's texts, and boys who admire his talent in singing. Elmo knows this time is coupled with responsibility, and he has to set a good example. This is easy to say, because he is the sixth among eight children, and is a big kuya to two of them.

Elmo's role here is a celebrity family. His grandparents are former actors Pancho Magalona and Pilar Pilapil, and his father is the late Francis Magalona. Interests are the Philippine sport, rugby.

His older sisters Ellaisaac and Saab are also in showbiz, as Elmo is also expected to be a celebrity.

He just turned 16, but he has been living in his own for a while—since "O, Wow" involves his fans. Whatever free time he gets, he spends with family and friends. Otherwise, he stays at home to "veg" out and watch up with digital games.

Moving out of his family's fairytale home was a "practical" decision, he said, since his new place is in Metro Manila and it allows him to focus on his producer's role he grew up. But there are things that he still doesn't do on his own, like fixing his 3 sisters. His mom and manager Pia does that.

"Mom keeps track of my finances. I would probably be as resourceful as my friend" he said. "If I get a little bit older, I'll have the responsibility of handling it on my own."

He has his place in himself on weekdays. On weekends, some of his younger siblings visit with mom Pia, who uses it to find him's keeping his place properly. But who cleans up the house?

"I don't like to be messy at all, so that I don't have to clean up," he said, laughing.

Surprises

Gathering all eight kids, some already with their own families, is a rare, prized "O, Wow" moment, he said.

"My family is really into surprises, we like throwing surprise birthday parties for them. Last year, I threw a surprise party for my brother Ellai, who turned 18. I surprised him with his favorite food, pizza, and he was so happy," he said.

Elmo also treasured their like-fan factor when they chose to stay in Manila and feed an Easter egg hunt in the Ambassador house.

"We hid the eggs, and the smaller kids looked for them," he said. "Binading ko ay nauwa during our, too."

They love dining out and snacking at home. Among Elmo's Oishi favorites are Bluffs's Cocolisa' "Inspiration Chicharon Chicken is good because it's not pork, but if you want pork, you can have the Baked Derby Pops chicharon. I like the hot and spicy one; I love spicy food." He other favorites are Party mixes that come in Jerky Hot and cheddar-cheese flavors, Willow's cheese-filled crackers and the classic Oishi Prawn Crackers.

Geek

Another "O, Wow" moment for Elmo was finding out that he got admitted to the College of St. Benilde's Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management course. He graduates from high school soon, he turns 20, and is now geared to study cooking. He also considered taking a computer course, because he is a self-confessed geek and is into gadgets, games, photography. "Something I get from my dad," he said, smiling.

Elmo said that apart from his family, his fans contribute to a lot of his "O, Wow" moments.

"Sometimes guys are a bottle with celebrity Dear In, telling me that I inspired her with my music. One time, I was given a box of sunglasses," he said. Elmo also assured that he regularly checks his Twitter account (@IamElmo) for fan messages even if he cannot reply to all of them, and appreciates the tweets. These small things, he said, add a jolt of positive energy to his day.

Oishi Bread Pan, Hurry 'n Cracklin', Smart Crink

FOCUS for Life holds mass yoga prayer

Yoga event takes on HIV/AIDS

BY CELEBRATION OF the 29th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, HIV advocacy group Yoga for Life (YFL) will hold an open-for-all yoga practice at the Promenade area of the Quezon Memorial Circle at 9 p.m. on May 20 to "enlighten the media about HIV and AIDS, help eradicate the stigma and discrimination, and evoke a happy and healthy community for all."

The first nongovernment and nonprofit organization in the country to offer a community-based yoga and meditation program for people infected with and affected by HIV, Yoga for Life has partnered with the local government of Quezon City, The Love Yourself Project, Youth AIDS Pilipinas Alliance, Take The Test, Blue Sugo, ROHO yoga and beyondyoga for "Outreach Through Meditation."

At the event, teachers from supporting yoga studios will guide attendees, while volunteers from partner organizations will be in the public about HIV and AIDS and their main objective of "spreading awareness and wellness." The FOCUS organization for selfless service to heal from Life's various hardships.

"While 10 Filipinos diagnosed with HIV every day, advocating for HIV prevention and supporting the 10,000 Filipinos who are already infected has never been more urgent. This is our contribution to the global effort to make a change in HIV awareness and response," said YFL president and co-founder Charmaine Go Oulang.

Yoga for Life was founded by yoga practitioner and HIV advocate Go Oulang and Rishi Lesmida. Its yoga class series, though specially designed for the needs of people living with HIV and AIDS, are open to everyone regardless of age, gender, sexuality and health status. The group will unite with 1,200 community organizations in 113 countries in celebrating the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, one of the world's oldest and largest grassroots mobilization campaigns for HIV awareness.

Interested donors may inquire with Rishi Lesmida at 0917.5928825 or through pesikapet@yahoo.com. For more information, e-mail yogaforlife@hotmail.com, visit www.yogaforlife.ph, be a friend of yogaforlife.ph on Facebook or follow the tweets of YogaforLife_ph.

The MEDICard Health and Wellness Bulletin

Take Charge, Doc!

HEAT – RELATED ILLNESSES IV

Heat-related illness can occur when the body is unable to cool itself adequately. The body normally cools itself by sweating. In more extreme circumstances, sweating can't manage and body temperature rises. This can be compounded with different efforts ranging from a mild heat rash or cramps through to more exhaustion or the more severe and potentially fatal heat stroke. People can experience heat-related illness during periods of extreme heat or summer. It can also occur in athletes or others during periods of physical exertion.

HEAT EXHAUSTION

Heat exhaustion can develop over several days of extreme hot weather. It is the body's response to excessive depletion of fluid and salt due to sweating. Those most prone to heat exhaustion are elderly people, people exercising or working in a hot environment, or people with high stress pressure. Heat exhaustion symptoms: Fainting, spasm, muscle, heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, and weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, or fainting.

WHAT TO DO

Attempt to cool the person with a cool shower, bath or sponge. The person should rest in a cool place. If possible, move the person to an air-conditioned environment. Give cool non-alcoholic drinks. Avoid high sugar drinks. In future, they are wearing loose, lightweight clothing. If symptoms do not lessen or don't improve with treatment, or if the person has high blood pressure or heart problems, seek medical attention immediately.

SEE YOU ANON! You can prevent heat-related illnesses! Here are some tips that may help:

- Drink plenty of fluids during hot weather — cool water is best
- Don't wait until you are thirsty to drink — drink regularly during the whole day
- Drink cool, as a good guide to hydration — it should be clear to light straw colored, not dark or golden
- Participate outdoor ventilation by opening windows and using fans
- Seek out air conditioned environment if possible
- Monitor those at high risk — check elderly people twice a day
- Seek your doctor's advice about postponing medical conditions and medications
- Wear light cotton, loose fitting clothing
- Have yourself and limit strenuous outdoor activity
- Stay out of the sun
- Take a cool shower or bath
- Take time to adjust to the environment
- Never leave a child or elderly person alone in a car
- Avoid alcohol, coffee and other caffeinated drinks, and high sugar drinks
- Limit hot foods

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Coincidences: A challenge to science

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Life's Good

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime Z. Licaros

There is order in a seemingly disorderly universe that is beyond current paradigms of modern science to explain

THE OCCURRENCE of coincidences have intrigued, baffled and fascinated man since ancient times. Why do random but meaningful events happen with an apparent cause? They certainly pose a big challenge to modern science.

Whenever the unseen works, at least, had an explanation for coincidences by equating them as an intervention from the gods, modern scientific and rational man has no such convenient explanation, and so the growing occurrence of coincidences has remained an unexplained phenomenon for him, for no scientific theory could account for them.

It is true that most coincidences are trivial or inconsequential, but they never fail to baffle those who experience them. The following examples will serve to illustrate these types of coincidences:

1. A young nurse named Jean Heaney noticed my wife Velma during her recent 50th graduation ceremonies at Mankato State College, Minnesota since both of them were born on the same day, the same month and the same year. Velma's birthday is on Feb. 22, 1924. Jean's birthday is on Feb. 22, 1924. Velma's birthplace is Mankato, Minnesota. Jean's birthplace is Mankato, Minnesota. Velma's father's name is Frank. Jean's father's name is Frank. Velma's mother's name is Mary. Jean's mother's name is Mary. Velma's father's occupation is a farmer. Jean's father's occupation is a farmer. Velma's mother's occupation is a housewife. Jean's mother's occupation is a housewife. Velma's religion is Lutheran. Jean's religion is Lutheran. Velma's hometown is Mankato, Minnesota. Jean's hometown is Mankato, Minnesota. Velma's high school is Mankato High School. Jean's high school is Mankato High School. Velma's college is Mankato State College. Jean's college is Mankato State College. Velma's major is nursing. Jean's major is nursing. Velma's graduation year is 1946. Jean's graduation year is 1946. Velma's graduation month is May. Jean's graduation month is May. Velma's graduation day is 22. Jean's graduation day is 22. Velma's graduation time is 10:00 a.m. Jean's graduation time is 10:00 a.m. Velma's graduation place is Mankato State College. Jean's graduation place is Mankato State College. Velma's graduation ceremony is at Mankato State College. Jean's graduation ceremony is at Mankato State College. Velma's graduation ceremony is on May 22, 1946. Jean's graduation ceremony is on May 22, 1946. Velma's graduation ceremony is at 10:00 a.m. Jean's graduation ceremony is at 10:00 a.m. Velma's graduation ceremony is in Mankato, Minnesota. Jean's graduation ceremony is in Mankato, Minnesota. Velma's graduation ceremony is at Mankato State College. Jean's graduation ceremony is at Mankato State College. Velma's graduation ceremony is on May 22, 1946. Jean's graduation ceremony is on May 22, 1946. Velma's graduation ceremony is at 10:00 a.m. Jean's graduation ceremony is at 10:00 a.m. Velma's graduation ceremony is in Mankato, Minnesota. Jean's graduation ceremony is in Mankato, Minnesota.

2. A German housewife discovers a ring she lost 60 years before—inside a potato! There have been stories of valuable objects being found inside the stomach of a fish or the person has caught, but inside a potato? How true. I heard of such an incident.

3. Several office workers were chatting a fly around the office and swatting it with rolled up magazines, when they finally landed on the open pages of a heavy dictionary. Somebody simply slammed it shut. When the dictionary was opened, the people saw with astonishment that the ill-fated insect had smashed against the word "Insecticide."

Dismissed

The above examples are commonplace events that could easily be dismissed as random chance, with no significance meaning. But what about the following case of reported coincidences that defies logic?

"On December 5, 1864, the date of the greatest series of accidences in history occurred. On this date, a ship in the Mersey Straight, off North Wales, sank with 81 passengers aboard. There was one survivor—a man named Hugh Williams. On the same date in 1785, a ship sank with 40 passengers aboard. There was one survivor—a man named Hugh Williams. On the very same date in 1868, a ship sank with 25 passengers aboard. There was one survivor—a man named Hugh Williams."

The second and third examples above were taken from a fascinating book by Phil Cousineau called "Soul Mysteries: Mysterious Stories of Meaningful Coincidences from a Seemingly Random World."

In 1972, Arthur Koestler, a prolific former correspondent and later a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study at Stanford University, published "The Roots of Coincidence," where he boldly questioned the existing Darwinian science's explanations in such diverse fields as religion, psychology, modern physics and philosophy.

These books, as well as a most influential scientific research on the subject by the great psychologist, Carl Jung, speak of the existence of non-causal reality—nonsensical only from the point of view of rationalist science, but not from the mystical and non-rational point of view.

There is order in a seemingly disorderly universe that is beyond current paradigms of modern science to explain. These cannot be a non-causal event. There can only be our own inability to explain the underlying causes. Critical deniers are called "local thinkers" by Cousineau and synchronicity by Carl Jung.

Synchronicity has been defined by Jung as the "simultaneous occurrence of two unrelated but meaningful events." And he gave the following example from his own experience about an unbelievable coincidence which helped mental but problems with A very difficult and very emotional female patient. Here is Jung's story:

Inaccessible

"My example concerns a young patient who, in spite of efforts made on both sides, proved to be psychologically inaccessible. The difficulty lay in the fact that she always knew better about everything. Her too, efficient education had provided her with a weapon ideally suited to this purpose, namely, a polished Cartesian rationalism with an impressively 'prussian' call'ches of reality, after several fruitless attempts to overcome her rationalism by a somewhat more human understanding, I had to confine myself to the hope that something unexpected and irrational would turn up, something that would burst the intellectual crust into which she had withdrawn herself.

"Well, I was sitting opposite to her one day, with my back to the window, listening to her flow of rhetoric. She had an impressive dream the night before, to which neurotics had given her a golden scarab—a real or fairly piece of jewelry. While she was still telling me about the dream, I heard something behind me gently tapping the window. I turned around and saw that it was a fairly large flying insect. Quite soon I knew against the window pane from outside in the obvious effort to get into the dark room.

"This seemed to me very strange. I opened the window immediately and caught the insect in the air as it flew in. It was a scarabaeoid beetle, or common rose chafer (Cetonia aurata), whose gold-green color most nearly resembles that of a golden scarab. I handed this beetle to my patient with the words, "Here is your scarab." This experience pulverized the dreaded hole in her rationalism and broke the ice of her intellectual resistance. The treatment could now be continued with satisfactory results."

Next week: Why do coincidences happen?

NOTE

E-mail jaimelicaros@yahoo.com. Visit my website www.jimmylicaros.com and listen to my radio program over DZMM Teleradyo every Sunday from 8-9 p.m. The next Soulmates, Karma and Reincarnation seminar is on May 19, 1-7 p.m. Call 0917.581.5745 or 09228 HEMP(4367) for more details.

The Bellevue Manila plays host to Chelsea Football Club coaches

THE BELLEVUE MANILA, the luxurious five-star hotel south of Metro Manila, has been appointed the official residence of the Chelsea Football Club (FC) Soccer School Philippines as a partnership between the famed English premier league football club and The Youngblood Soccer Academy (TYSA). The special summer camp is ongoing at the Football Field of TYSA, the first-ever grassroots city-within-a-city project of Vista Land, along Daang Hari, Las Piñas. Leading the coaching staff are Philippine Team Schalo stars and TYSA directors, brothers Phil and Alvaro Younghusband. Chelsea both played for Chelsea FC and Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong football program development manager Dave Stewart. The Bellevue Manila and Resorts corporate director of communications, Rose and marketing Ryan Chan welcomes the Youngblood-Chelsea alliance to expand their effort to provide opportunities for young Filipino athletes to experience world-class training. As the official hotel, The Bellevue Manila will provide free-of-charge accommodation to the coaches including Ian Woodrof, Neil Bath and Adrian Stear. The Bellevue Manila is at North Bridgeway, Alabang Commercial Center, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. For inquiries and reservations, call 771-8101 or visit www.thebellevue.com.

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THE MOST COMMON medical use of cranberry is to treat urinary tract infection (UTI). The hippuric acid and the antioxidant proanthocyanidin found in cranberries prevent UTI-causing bacteria like E. coli from attaching to cells in the bladder.

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The cranberry can be taken medicinally, in the form of a juice or cranberry extract supplement like CranUTI Potion's Relief, available in Mercury Drug, Watsons and other drug stores nationwide with customer hotline (632) 5.895049 and (0917) 4898282.

All-natural CranUTI dietary supplement contains only the vitamins and minerals of the whole cranberry fruit.

If you are taking blood-thinning medications like Coumadin, consult your doctor before taking cranberry medication.

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HICE RODRIGUEZ and her mom Marsha with host Patricia Hizon (standing) and PAWS' Anna Cabrera

In praise of the 'asong Pinoy'

Seeing beauty beyond breed, Pinoys show their love for their mutts and pedigree-less native dogs at the fun Aspin Club afternoon event

By Alya B. Honasan

YES, THERE were some pure-bred dogs, like a couple of cute pomeranians, a sharpei, and even special guest and celebrity spokesperson Heart Evangelista's German shepherd.

Still, it was pretty clear that those critters were guests who had earned cup to show muppets. The size of the show was undoubtedly the aspin, the 'asong Pinoy (formerly called askal, or aspin d'dyot), the mixed-breed mutts of all shapes, configurations and sizes, and their adoring owners, who turned out in full force to prove that love could be known to pedigree.

The event was Ready-Set-Dash, an activity of the Philip-

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All About Image

This smartphone promises a human touch

By Erica Paredes
Cook Source

THE SMARTPHONE is not just a luxury anymore, but a necessity for most people to strive to keep up with work and personal affairs even while on the go.

With each new model outdoing the last and with the next big thing coming every other month, how does one know which phone is right for his or her lifestyle?

May 3 marked the day many had been waiting for, as Samsung unveiled its newest offering, the Galaxy S III, in a huge 2,000-journalist-strong event held in Hall's Grant Exhibition centre in London's

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In praise of the 'asong Pinoy'

From page A1

pino Assisted Welfare Society's (SWAS) Aspin Club. Held last April 29 at the Bonifacio area in McKinley Hill, with the help of sponsors like Alpas, BetterDog Canine Behavior Center, McDonald's and Frontline Plus, it was a delightful gathering that had dogs and their owners participating in 10 different challenges, feats of agility given fun touches by the people of BetterDog.

Thus, your typical hurdle was amped up with a shower of water and called "I Made It Through the Rain." A walk riddled with distracting treats was "Temptation Alley" while your agility ramp was "Climb Every Mountain."

"All the obstacles here were designed to use a dog's inherent abilities," declared Jojo Iscasia, the gutsy and respected dog trainer and behaviorist behind BetterDog. "There's nothing here that the dog was not designed to do.

"Aspins are as trainable as any dog," Iscasia continued. "It's just that many aspins have a higher level of fear or shyness. I personally feel it's genetic evolution; the friendlier dogs that approached humans readily were the ones that got eaten, because they were easy to catch. But if a dog is willing to come to a human and take food or play with a toy, it can be trained."In fact, Iscasia is proud that another aspin, Peppoy, trained by Aspin Club president Nico Rodrigues, was competing in dog agility competitions in Cebu.

ABANDON Listen to the "Climb Every Mountain" challenge.

HEART Evangelista meets Rhian

BETTERDOG'S Jojo Iscasia explains the mechanics of the race.

Opportunities

"Peppoy has been given so many opportunities," said Rodriguez of his beloved pet, who has also excelled in feature competition in the past. "In the beginning, I didn't expect so much from him. I guess I also had my own prejudices about him being an 'aspin lang.' But he always surprises me."

At a welcome reception before the start of the event, Rodrigues—who has five other dogs aside from Peppoy, four of them aspins—told club members that it was about time there was more respect for and good news about aspins, instead of just hearing about how they are slaughtered, abused, kinakabaliad or lifted by tricycle, a pinapasal or sabit."

It was this obvious discrimination against the cute-as-a-button dog that got SWAS focusing on them, said executive director Anna Cabrera.

"In a household, the common scenario was that there would be an aspin outside as a guard dog, while the shih tzus, pomeranians and golden retrievers shared the indoor space with their owners. In pet-friendly places, we noticed that only purebred dogs would be walked or taken to the groomers."

Most alarming, Cabrera said, was that 98 percent of the cruelty calls SWAS got involved aspins—concerned against another native dogs. Then, if they aren't eaten, run over, or stricken with disease on the streets, they are caught by dog pounds and euthanized.

SWAS was also behind the same-sex marriage gone the native dog's better image—from "askal" (slang before the football players realized the label) to "aspin."

In 2009, SWAS started a campaign to "Say Beauty Beyond Breed", with the exhibitions of the Aspin Dub in 2010, with the catchy motto "My aspin is in" and Heart Evangelista as spokesperson, the native dog's image has certainly come a long way.

But it, the pedigree-driven purebred still has a breed that doesn't get much attention, and, especially in the provinces, doesn't even get to visit a vet until the dog is practically dying, says SWAS resident veterinarian Dr. Wilfred Alonzo, who has treated countless aspins in his three years with the animal welfare organization. "It's not for lack of health, they're more resistant because they have adapted to the situations, the climate, and the environment."

Alonzo believes that the lack of value we give native dogs is quite telling of our own views. "Aspin, shih tzu, pit bull—they are all the same. They need the same affection. It's I don't see the point of considering as you inferior. When someone says, 'Iyakol lang,' it's like you're saying, 'Pinoy ka lang.' Does that reflect how we see ourselves? That's why sometimes who when I see someone bringing an aspin to a mall—it says a lot about the confidence of the owner, as well."

Prejudices

Like Rodriguez, I had grown up with my own prejudices, having had a succession of pure-breeds, from a Rusa aspin to a Belgian malinois and my last pedigreed dog, Simba, a labrador retriever. Then, on May 9, 2009, Banana found a mangy puppy at our gate, and Kikay entered our lives. Today—a year after Banana left us—I am still marveling at the complex, delightful character of this dog that is a friend and independent, but filled with an inherent kindness (there's no better word) that is, really, un-Pinoy.

It's been hard to save Kikay's soul. Just now that she's gone, it is me, the **#friends** that are having great. Case in point: as she regained the various hairdos, she would hesitate, but hop ahead when the new me at the other end of the obstacle, or heard my voice.

Kikay did so well, we ended up in third place (after champions Senior Francisco and Chesman, and second placers Rodriguez and another of her rescued aspins, Rhonda), and my aspin brought home her first trophy, handed to her by Heart Evangelista herself!

During the program, Evangelista also unveiled two gorgeous new posters of herself posing with aspins, proclaiming the benefits of adoption and declaring herself a beautiful "mom" of Filipino, Chinese and Siberian husky mixes. "Ito ang anak ko."

"If you have a broken heart or are going through a tough time," she asserted, to much clapping and rousing by the audience, "a dog can give you unconditional love."

"What do aspins have going for them? They have great owners who don't give their dogs any limitations," said Iscasia. "They make the best companion dogs. They're even become status symbols!"

"They're survivors, and their loyalty is ruined him else," says Rodriguez. "Especially with rescues, you feel once loved ole, and you feel that gratitude."

"Aspins are special because they are so forgiving," says Cabrera. "I've been a rescuer all my life, and I've yet to get over the fact that a native dog that has just escaped slaughter will wag its tail when you speak gently to it. Our adopters always by their aspins' loving nature—if their appearance, the good life, because they know what it is to have come from challenges."

Manage cold sores in 4 easy ways

SUMMER IS a time to enjoy evenings with family and friends. However, if you have been exposed to fatigue, stress or sunlight, you may be triggering an outbreak of cold sores.

A cold sore is a small fluid-filled, itchy and painful mouth blister that appears on or near the lips and can be contracted by kissing or sharing utensils with someone who has cold sores.

Cold sores can also be triggered by hormonal changes, poor immune function, fatigue and illnesses such as colds and flu. In most cases, cold sores are caused by Herpes simplex virus type 1 and 2.

The bad news with cold sores is that since you are infected, it cannot be cured. You need to manage and prevent the spread of cold sore within your household and workplace by following these four simple steps.

Make sure it's a cold sore.—There are two types of mouth sores that you can get. Cold sores can be passed on to others. Canker sores or mouth ulcers, on the other hand, are not contagious. Check with your doctor to determine which problem you are dealing with.

Eat a balanced diet.—For cold sore prevention, proper nutrition means loading your diet with food rich in iron, zinc and vitamins A, C and E to keep your immune system strong and able to fight off simple colds or the flu—the top causes of cold sores.

Have good hygienic habits—Good hygiene is one of the best ways to manage and prevent cold sores. Keep your hands clean by washing them regularly to avoid getting colds, flu or infection.

When you start feeling symptoms like tingling sensation, avoid relieving anyone else in your home by washing your hands or you can sip a cold sore outbreak in the bud.

One is a soothing gel.—While there is no cure for cold sores, one can reduce the frequency and severity of cold sore outbreaks. A good way to do this is to take an antiviral medication, which has been an approved treatment for these outbreaks.

You can use a soothing gel that contains carbomeadone. Its which provides symptomatic relief. Carbomeadone Na is proven to have antiviral activity against a spectrum of viruses that include herpes and adenovirus.

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Use motivation to get rid of exercise excuses

Modify your environment. Keep healthy foods in your kitchen, and choose physical activities that will not require extra effort, time and expense

By Mhod Felipe Mendoza
Contributor

ACCORDING TO health experts, lack of the time is the most common excuse for people to delay their healthy lifestyle. Jessie plans, or professionals are searching for more ways to beat exercise excuses.

But it's hard to exercise or eat healthy if you doesn't really want to do it.

An effective solution is to find a personal motivation. Doing things consciously, like cooking something delicious to satisfy her family or finding time to watch an afternoon television. We should identify the reasons why we stick to things, and only then people delay taking action.

'I want to see guaranteed results'

Most people will work hard and do something that will assure results and progress. A salesman will work eight hours a day to meet his quotas so he can save more money and step up his career. People focus on what they are good at, and forget other things that need attention, like health. Others are hesitant to invest time when there seem to be no guarantees.

But aside from physical improvement, a healthy lifestyle will positively affect your mental and emotional well-being. This will even improve you performance at work and at home. Studies show numerous guaranteed results if you stick to the program:

- Feeling younger
- Better sleep
- Better mental
- Improved body awareness and posture
- Fat loss
- Improved endurance
- Improved health conditions

'I always want the easy way'

We want to save time and effort, so we tend to choose convenient and readily available foods like fast food and processed meats. In the office, instead of walking to meet your boss or co-worker, you use your mobile phone to call or text.

No shortcuts

There are no shortcuts to healthy living, because you will have to spend more and effort. But there are ways to make exercise more accessible and realistic, given your lifestyle. And when it comes to healthy eating, you need planning and preparation. In fact, the simpler the food, the better the calories, and the healthier it is.

HARD Push! By eating and exercise pleasant and positive experiences

- Modify your environment. Do not make unhealthy eating easy, but keep healthy foods in your kitchen, like oatmeal, fruits, vegetables, wheat bread, and measured lean meat and fish. Study ways for steaming, grilling or boiling.
- Choose physical activities that will not require extra effort, time and expense. Walking and home workouts are only the best recommendations.
- Bring healthy foods with you wherever you are, like fruits or a sandwich, so you won't get tempted to buy junk food from convenience stores.

'I must look it's my'

Filipinos love to eat before this and children because the tasty and nourishment make these feel good. Younger people look forward to going out on a Friday night to wine and dine at their favorite restaurants because it's fun.

Most people consider exercise and healthy eating pessimistic for their overeating consuming food and painful OF course, if you see those healthy practices negatively, you will always find excuses. The approach is to make healthy eating and exercise pleasant and positive experiences.

- If you enjoy doing things with friends or family, then exercise or start a healthy eating program with them.
- If you are a music lover, play your favorite music during exercise.
- If you enjoy trying different restaurants, challenge yourself to find the most satisfying healthy dishes in town.
- If you love high-calorie foods, do not over-starve your diet. Choose a realistic eating plan that will still give room for treats.

For the family

"Because I love Mom/Dad/Them"

We spend time with our loved ones, we give them gifts, we touch and hug them, and we show affection and concern. Parents make lessons easy if we do them for people we care about.

Most people, especially partners, choose to use their free time for the family rather than spend it on physical activities. But embracing a healthy lifestyle means doing something for yourself, so you can give more love to your family.

- Find a physical activity so you can do more and will stay for at your best when you spend time with your kids and your husband.
- Being a good role model of healthy living will inspire your loved ones. It is hard to encourage your kids to be more active and eat vegetables if they do not see you doing these things.

- Exercising with your family also means spending more time with them. It is also a good opportunity to communicate.

'I have no choice but to do it'

We go out of our way to do things even if we do not really want to because that's the only solution to our existing problem. Some people will an event, outside their comfort zones, like working abroad, just to earn more to send their kids to school.

Are now to avoid uncertain events is our first like sickness and health problems. We should create a strong foundation for disease-free living. To earn might still be okay, but if you do not do something about your health now, tomorrow might be too late.

The leading causes of death's like heart disease, cancer and respiratory diseases, are all results of unhealthy lifestyle habits like unhealthy eating, physical inactivity, stress, and smoking, aside from age, genes and the environment.

- Make an effort to incorporate daily exercise into by standing, walking, moving and exercising.
- Avoid foods high in fat, cholesterol, sugar and salt.
- Get enough rest and make an effort to have complete sound sleep.
- Manage existing health conditions. Study aches and discomfort by getting medical help right away.

E-mail the author at mendoza.felipe@gmail.com. Follow her on twitter @mendoza_felipe.

Bigger and Better Discounts with M Here Exclusives

Metrobank Card once again rewards its cardholders by providing top treats on dining, travel and shopping with their Metrobank credit card.

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Eat to your heart's desire

Metrobank cardholders can enjoy 40% OFF on their total food bill for a minimum single-receipt purchase of P3,000 at any UCC Concept Stores. This includes Vienna Cafe, Cafe Terrace, Park Cafe and Park Cafe Express. Experience a fun way to enjoy coffee with UCC Kori Koto. Pour milk into a glass of frozen coffee cubes and watch as it magically turns into a beautiful caramel brown. Chew on the coffee crystals for an icy treat or let them melt slowly into a smooth and milky delicious iced coffee drink. A truly unforgettable coffee experience!

Another mouth-watering treat for Metrobank cardholders is the M Here Exclusive offer with CRAVEBurger. Dubbed as the only healthy burger in the market, CRAVEBurgers are made with only 100% Pure USAN Imported Beef Burgers and using the freshest ingredients, no extenders and never "pre-cooked" - always cooked-to-order. Metrobank cardholders just need to spend at least P1,333 and they can instantly get 40% discount on their total food bill when charged to their Metrobank card. Healthy, Guilt-free, and Heart-friendly – burgers were never expected to be this healthy!

Indulge in some retail therapy

Spoil yourself with the latest trends from Bauhaus, Bratpack and Ellesse! For a minimum single-receipt straight purchase of P5,000 from these stores, Metrobank cardholders will receive a P2,000 gift certificate for free! Lose your way as you go through these stores many brands - Tough, Salad, BOSS, Motorola, La Creme, Super Dry, Cheap Monday, Eastpack, Hedaki, Hedgren, Jansport, Nalgene, The North Face, Ellesse, Toddfiend and many, many more!

Metrobank cardholders can also enjoy amazing treats from Planet Sports. Get 30% OFF your purchases by spending a minimum single-receipt purchase of only P5,000! Brands include Adidas, Arena, Asics, Converse, K-Swiss, Nautica, New Balance and Puma. Go to any of the 16 branches nationwide to enjoy this treat!

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QUIMPO siblings, taken in 2009

SUSAN Quimpo holds up a copy of "Subversive Lives." MARIE CURMICHAEL

In their book 'Subversive Lives,' the Quimpos write a memoir that speaks not only for their embattled family, but for all victims of martial law

A heroic generation still cries: 'Never again'

By Elizabeth Lobogo
Contributor

STICKS, STONES, scalding water, electric shock, water cure, sitting on a block of ice, isolation, flaying—these and other forms of torture may leave broken bones, even the lives and spirit of many political prisoners in the '70 and '80s.

But many words like "revisionist," "sinungaling" and "traydor" that have been hurled against ex-revolutionary Nathan Gilbert Quimpo don't hurt him. He earned from decades of "subversive interactions," where he worked to help oust a dictator from the Right (President Marcos) only to become disillusioned and leave the same authoritarian constancy of a faction of the Left (led by Jose Ma. Sison).

He and his sister Susan are the main authors of "Subversive Lives" (Ateneo Publishing), launched at the gathering of martial law witnesses and survivors at the Ateneo University in April. They gathered in the spirit of "never again."

SHARMEL Quimpo and her wife Esperanza Fernan in 1987

At an Easter meeting with the inquirer, Nathan talked about life after leaving the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). He went back to school to finish his masters at the University of Amsterdam and his Ph.D. at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, and now teaches political science and international relations at the University of Tsukuba in Japan. He is doing research on the development of the peace process in the Philippines.

Even here, he still believes (in a homesick way, mindful not to establish a pattern and avoiding scenes). He says, "I'm keen for short periods. I try to be in administrative possible."

Their family memoir comes at the right time—the 40th anniversary of the declaration of martial rule. Nathan says, "People tend to forget. Many Filipinos today don't see how bad it was then. You see Rongjong, later, Imelda Marcos still up there. How can they get away with it?"

18 years to write

The book took 10 years to write, Some siblings initially resisted uncovering painful memories. Lei, 56-retired, Emilie, Carrie, Nathan, Lillian, Jen, Peter, Jun and Susan lived through and held up against their authoritarian upstairs—the Marcos dictatorship, the CPP when the hard-liners prevailed and the Opus Dei.

Each sibling put their critical faculties at work in questioning, even fighting, the stories spun.

Two brothers, all full-time members of the movement, died in the process: Jun, then 23, a desaparecido, is presumed dead, and Jun, 34, killed by his own comrade whom he had reprimanded for violating party rules and behavior. Their names are inscribed on the wall of the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City.

The Quimpos are not unique in having had members who joined the movement. Nathan and Susan added that Hilus, Aquino Lourdes, Dhabel, Nolas and Tayag families are the list.

They said, "Many of our personal families sacrificed lives to the struggle. Their stories have not been told. We have to voice them. "What sets his family apart is they are all visible.

Susan said, among her relatives, they were known as "tapa makialam pero tagapakinig lang."

Nathan's path is the opposite. Recruited by Opus Dei, she rose to be a supervisory but authoritarian "vocational distributionary." She wrote how her family was invited as retired siblings per se moved and removed. Although her religious quest was resolved late to "leadership" efforts, rules dictated that she couldn't give a single penny to a desaparecido Ilyan who had a young family that and was deeply underground and came to her for help.

She saw how Opus Dei recruited poorer girls to serve as domestic help. They weren't permitted to mind anything to their maids from whom they were told to detach. Remember, Everything was surrendered to the group.

Kim he wrote, "I would find the Work of God dull and continuous to target institutions like universities, who called the Communists, and who may not be rich, but they do so in the hope that their recruits will command excellent incomes due to their talents and abilities. The prized recruits are the technocrats—in short, people or groups who control the money and power in any particular country."

Excesses of the Left

The may have spoken, too, for the sibling on the other side. They have secured the installation statements of the Left as we must not be blinded by them.

Susan Ishmael and Esperanza sacrificed much for them to get a good education as the family's deliverance from poverty. The father felt frustrated that his children got more involved in the movement that he once dismissed as "mga kabataan."

While other classmates went to shopping sprees or caught a movie on weekends, Susan, the youngest and enrolled at a Catholic girls' school, accompanied Dad to detention centers to visit siblings. It was her political awakening.

Asked if the quest for cultural change was worth the anguish of witnessing (and not behavior) among comrades, losing parents and loved ones in a family plagued with misery and anxiety, losing their brothers, Ilyan said, "Fighting the dictatorship was not only a choice, it was a duty placed on the shoulders of the youth of the Post Quarter Storm generation. There was no choice between action and social inequities and martial law gave no room for reformism."

Nathan said the current President is "well-meaning, but he hasn't done anything to challenge oligarchic rule. To get land reform carried out, he would have to betray his own class." He quoted Mahatma Gandhi's famous dictum: "We have your mother, but she brought back the oil-gazelles."

Susan, a therapist who uses art to address unresolved issues that cause illness and whose clients are mostly human rights victims and defenders and women, ended on a note most common who saw personal closure with their involvement in the revolution, broke back on closer years "with gratitude."

Lives on the line

She says, "I was in the company of people who were ready to put their lives on the line for a bigger cause. I joined rallies where the police or military would start shooting demonstrators. When the shooting started, I was always amazed to see how ordinary folk—students ... workers ... students ... urban poor—used their bodies as shields so that other protesters could run and seek refuge.

"Lawyers, teachers and scientists would step in and act as a organization paired to election, then big, the military to stop shooting. People stayed for solidarity, regardless of social status, because they knew we were out fighting the Marcos dictatorship, protecting what was left of human rights."

Asked if it was all worth it, she answered, "Most definitely. It was a time when you saw the best in the Filipino. What a privilege to witness all that. On a personal level, I learned much from the movement. Mostly everything I know now—organizing, fundraising, the importance of writing, listening to those coming from different perspectives, working/facilitating workshops—all I know now is based in the movement."

The siblings based in the Philippines focus on seeking justice for the victims and martyrs of the dictatorship.

Ilyan said, "The torturers and killers who have been left unpunished all these years must be punished. Families of the victims must receive just compensation far beyond the small sum distributed to them last year. The truth about martial law and the revolution of 1986-87 must be told to the youth and must exist in histories for generations to come."

Active in Claimants 1081 that represent 10,000 martial law victims, Susan recalled the emotion when the $1,000 compensation was announced. The members, activists from the '60s to the '80s, arrived at meetings, some walking with canes or on wheelchairs. The jobless was the one who brought to him them their coffins.

Susan said, "I wish Filipinos would take to heart the lessons from history. The two times I marched the impeachment trial, I cringed when I heard some emotion gadgets referred to as 'Erap Resign.' How can he be addressed as 'Erap Honor' when history has proven that this man is not fit on honorable life and a guilty himself of extreme human rights violations and corruption charges?"

She added, "Before we church will a nation can be better, we have to look at the candidates' personal history. Has he aligned with Marcos or darkness? What is the source of his personal wealth? Did he, in, steal or use his title of service to his community? We can no longer afford to have short memories. We need to politicians to be held accountable for their own conduct themselves. Host—we administrators to another and continue plundering the little resources we have left."

JK SHIN, president and head of IT and Mobile Communications Division of Samsung

SAMSUNG unveiled its newest offering, the Galaxy S III, at a huge 2,000-journalist-strong event held in Earl's Court Exhibition center in London's posh West End.

This smart phone promises a human touch

From page B1

posh West End.

Samsung, whose tagline is "Designed for humans, inspired by nature," suggests an answer to the technical frustrations of the non-savvy population of mobile-phone lovers.

At exactly 6 p.m., journalists, news outlets, bloggers and Samsung partners from all over the world poured into the reception hall to register for the big event. A seemingly logistical nightmare, Samsung was able to organize everything seamlessly, from the quick and easy registration, to the very attentive wait staff during cocktails all the way to the product experiences, where everyone had the chance to tinker with the new Galaxy S III.

JK Shin, president and head of IT and Mobile Division at Samsung, gave the opening speech and unveiled the Galaxy S III phone to a storm of applause and excitement.

The smartphone game is a huge one, with everyone trying to outdo each other with their next big thing. Here are a few features you can expect from the S III.

One of the main features is the S voice, the advanced natural language user interface that not only listens to you, but responds to your requests as well. For instance, you can text, organize your schedule, listen to your music and even control the volume and take pictures just by verbally asking your phone to do it for you.

Samsung's Galaxy S III suggests an answer to the technical frustrations of the non-savvy population of mobile-phone lovers

EVERYONE had the chance to tinker with the new Galaxy S III.

Stayz awake

It also detects when you want to call someone you've been texting; all you have to do is simply lift the phone to your ear. Likewise, it also stays "awake" so long as you do say your screen will never turn off until you close your eyes or look away.

Sharing is caring. Even with no internet or phone signal, you are able to share photos and music files plus more just by touching another Galaxy S III phone. A 1GB movie file takes only three seconds or less and a 30MB music file takes just a few seconds. The All-Share Play feature allows you to send and share to your other devices, such as your tablet, smart television and laptop, instantly, no matter how far they are from you.

It's great for people working on big projects, as the Group Cast feature allows others to see your screen and make comments and revisions as long as you are under the same WiFi network.

Perhaps one of the biggest temptations for those who own smartphones for the convenience of checking e-mail, social media and the like is the 4.8-inch large screen, for better quality when viewing photos or watching videos.

Speaking of videos, the Pop-up Play feature allows you to continue watching a video anywhere on your screen while simultaneously doing other tasks. For those who rely on their phone to capture important moments, the Galaxy S III offers an eight-megapixel camera with zero-shutter lag so you can capture the smart moments that you want to.

It also has Best Shot feature, which allows you to take 20 shots consecutively, and Best Photo feature, which automatically chooses the best picture taken out of eight shots.

The event ended with an invitation to run out the new smartphone, and everyone raced to get their hands on one. The Samsung Galaxy S III is truly a force to be reckoned with, and will be available in the Philippines by the end of May in two colors—Pebble Blue and Marble White.

SAMSUNG was able to organize everything seamlessly, from the quick and easy registration, to the very attentive wait staff during cocktails and especially the product experience.

MUSIC sharing

TAKE pictures by verbally asking the phone to do it for you.

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Anti-aging helpers

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

Natural ways to become a strong and youthful version of yourself

ALL THE RAGE now are the most effective regimens to delay the aging process.

Little known but just as reliable are the natural practices you can adopt to achieve just that—a strong and youthful version of who you are today.

As with any anti-aging prescription, the foundation is always health. Why is that? Because the secret to a younger looking you is the health of every single cell in the body. We can boost cellular health and rejuvenation through the simplest of rituals, by simply incorporating those in our daily life, results will be seen.

Thus, it can be said that the little things we do each day contribute to our well-being or illness.

Often called liquid gold or the nectar of the gods, honey is more than just a relished refreshment and much more than an ancient remedy for an ear where people lived beyond the limits of their life span.

There is honey and there is honey. Not all are created equal, and to date, the most potent of honeys is the one derived from the Manuka bush in Mt. Arthur, New Zealand.

In this remote mountain, far from pollution and exposed to the challenges of isolation, the white manuka flowers bloom in summer for only four weeks. It is here that the purest of honey is harvested from beehives that have not been touched by human hands.

The bush, called Manuka, have used the nectular plant in the treatment of various health conditions for centuries. The bark and leaves were boiled, its vapors inhaled to alleviate and treat coughs, colds, rheumatic aches and pains, arthritis and stomach problems.

Manuka honey was discovered by the local farmers after they fed it to their cows. The cows never became ill.

The Manuka Health Company, the leading manufacturer of manuka tree honey has successfully determined the strength of its products using standards developed by the Waikato University of Hamilton, New Zealand scientist and professor Thomas Henle discovered nutritional methylglyoxal (MGO), the active component which enables the antibacterial activity of manuka honey. Thus, the higher the MGO, the stronger the antibacterial potency and activity.

Today manuka honey ranges from MGO 30 for minimal protection to MGO 550 for the strongest immune boosting capability.

Testimonies come from individuals experiencing alleviation and healing within three to seven days from chronic diseases, such as bronchitis, flu, sinusitis, gastroenteritis, arthritis, stomach ulcers, sore throat, boils.

Manuka honey has also developed a flavor cloudscient spicy that delivers results within 24-36 hours.

It's truly amazing what natural treatments can do to speed up the body's healing process. Check out www.manukahealth.ph.

Hot chillies

That fire in your mouth each time you eat spicy food isn't just designed to make the pains; it stimulates the senses.

Travel bulb peppers, as well as the hot chilli variety are members of the plant genus capsicum (from the Greek kapto, meaning "to bite"). The benefits of capsicum are numerous.

Anti-inflammatory.—Capsicum influences to combating capsaicin substances, along with permanent aging of the skin and other degenerative diseases.

Stomach relief.—Gastric disorders and certain intestinal problems like inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) relieve stress is enhanced.

Headaches.—The swelling and pain producing neurotransmitters of the brain are successfully suppressed. This prevents migraines and sinus headaches.

Sinus infections.—Its active local properties are effective in fighting sinus-related allergy symptoms and nasal congestion.

Cancer fighters.—Recent clinical studies in Japan and China have showed that capsaicin could prevent the growth of certain types of cancer, such as intestinal, stomach and colon. This explains why the cancer rates in South America (where cuisine involves around chilli peppers and beans) are nearly lower than North America.

Fat burner

Take a look at the active ingredient in sweeter diet pills, and you will find capsaicin. This is because by raising the thermogenic level of the body, fat-burning is thus speeded up. Ever since the Food and Drug Administration banned ephedra, chillies have been used as a quick and effective replacement.

Unlike ephedra, chilli does not stimulate the heart; in fact, it is a heart-friendly supplement.

The peppers bony heat measurement known as Scoville units, the most accurate way to measure the heatness of a pepper. This was developed and named after botanist Wilbur Scoville, who learned that 80 percent of the heatness is found in the seeds and ribs. The hottest pepper in the world is called Naga Jolokia from Assam, India.

Sweet Skin Scrub

1 tbsp plain honey
2 tsp brown sugar
Scrub your body until creamy smooth. Shower and rinse off.

Cold Protect Tonic

1 c warm water
1 tsp Manuka honey
Drink daily on an empty stomach as your immune-boosting regimen.

Today's affirmation: "I am never in hurry"
Love and Light!

Reference: "The Survivors Promise" by Malvina Pervieux, MS

This calcium supplement tastes good enough to chew on

CALCHEWS gives women their daily dose of calcium in an entertaining way.

TWO SOFT and chewy Lucky Bursts—Rich Chocolate and Creamy Caramel

ALTHOUGH MOST women know the importance of calcium, many are still lesser wont to include calcium supplements in their daily regimen because of tablets or capsules that are too large and difficult to swallow.

A breakthrough calcium supplement from Pascual Laboratories Inc. (PCHC) of Pascual Laboratories Inc., CalChews gives women their daily dose of calcium in two soft and chewy candy flavors—Rich Chocolate and Creamy Caramel...also fortified with equally essential Vitamins D and K for optimum bone health.

It is the first and only calcium product that provides an easy and delicious way of getting the calcium needed to strengthen the bones, while protecting the heart.

"You don't need a glass of water or go through any preparation to take CalChews. You can take it after a meal, while waiting, riding the MRT, while reading, or during just about any activity," says Valerie Sison, PCHC brand manager.

As a natural bone mineral in the hard part of bones which it is stored, calcium is essential for healthy bones. It is also important for muscle contraction, heart action, nerve system maintenance and normal blood clotting.

Calcium deficiency in one's diet could lead to common bone illnesses such as osteoporosis, a condition associated with shrinking height and bone porosity and spine. CalChews also contains 400 IU of Vitamin D3, to ensure proper calcium absorption.

Recent researches have shown that Vitamin K regulates calcium by keeping it in the bones, and out of the arteries. This helps minimize the calcification of the arteries, which can lead to heart attack.

"With its ideal combination of Calcium, Vitamin D3 and Vitamin K2 in the recommended daily dose, CalChews offers a complete solution for optimum bone management, even as it also helps with other health concerns," says PCHC marketing director Bing Bonnevie.

So the next time you pop a calcium supplement in your mouth, choose to chew CalChews instead.

ENTERTAINMENT

Edna Emerson G. Velarde

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Boy Katindig holds jazz competition

THE DOF Katindig Songwriting and Jazz Competition is open to Filipinos and other nationalities residing in the Philippines with at least three performing members. "We are doing this to encourage creativity, originality and progressiveness in the jazz performing arts," says Katindig, one of the country's best jazz musicians. Deadline for submission of entries is on June 15. Qualifying rounds for the Top 9 will be on July 3, 10 and 17. Grand finals for the Top 3 is on July 28. Visit the official Facebook page for details and contest mechanics.

A Kamikazee look at love and lust

Kamikazee
Romantico
Universal Records

You know a band is at its peak and having loads of fun when it picks a bubblegum tune like Metallica's "If You're Not Here" and manhandles it to a punk audition. That first cover the only thing to test forward to in Kamikazee's new CD, "Romantico." There are 10 original tracks that all rock with the excitement of overweight underdressed between a high school gang and their ex-lovers.

CD REVIEW

It doesn't confirm whether the romance in the songs really happened, inspiration helps to appreciate their cocktail-call of which explore the volatile nature of romance.

The maltreatment of the upbeat opener, "Hulih," is countered by the sensorial strum of a guy memorizing about her love. He takes the blame and we believe him, especially because Jay Contreras slept with earnest vocals.

In contrast, "TKIT" backs with sensual tension, let lolled under effortlessly-long push and curial fuelfire heating up the hateful make-out lyrics: "Bakit ang sarap-sarap kung gano'n ang sakit / Bakit ang sarap-sarap kung gano'n ang sakit / Bakit ang sarap-sarap kung gano'n ang pangalo-kong gano'n ang sakit / Bakit ang sarap-sarap kung gano'n ang sakit / Bakit ang sarap-sarap kung gano'n ang sakit / Bakit ang sarap-sarap kung

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SM CITY CEBU
SM CITY DAVAO
SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
SM CITY GENERAL TRIAS
SM CITY LUCENA
SM CITY MARILAO
SM CITY SAN JOSE DEL MONTE
SM CITY TARLAC
SM CITY TELWIRE
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2. DARK SHADOWS
3. 21 JUMP STREET
4. DARK SHADOWS in Digital 3D
5. THE AVENGERS
6. THE AVENGERS Digital 3D
7. AMERICAN PIE: REUNION
8. THE CURSE OF THE BUDDY
9. THE AVENGERS
10. THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY

MANILA

1. 21 JUMP STREET
2. DARK SHADOWS in Digital 3D
3. DARK SHADOWS
4. THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY
5. THE AVENGERS
6. THE CURSE OF THE BUDDY / AMERICAN PIE: REUNION
7. THE AVENGERS RETURNS

METRO EAST

1. DARK SHADOWS
2. THE AVENGERS Digital 3D
3. 21 JUMP STREET
4. DARK SHADOWS
5. THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY
6. THE AVENGERS
7. AMERICAN PIE: REUNION
8. THE AVENGERS RETURNS

NOVALICHES

1. THE AVENGERS
2. THE CURSE OF THE BUDDY
3. THE AVENGERS RETURNS
4. THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY

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1. THE AVENGERS Digital 3D
2. 21 JUMP STREET
3. THE AVENGERS RETURNS
4. DARK SHADOWS

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1. THE AVENGERS Digital 3D
2. DARK SHADOWS
3. THE LUCKY ONE
4. THE AVENGERS RETURNS
5. THE AVENGERS

LIPA

1. DARK SHADOWS in Digital 3D
2. THE AVENGERS
3. BRIDESMAIDS
4. THE AVENGERS RETURNS
5. AMERICAN PIE: REUNION

DASMARIÑAS

1. DARK SHADOWS in Digital 3D
2. THE AVENGERS
3. AMERICAN PIE: REUNION
4. 21 JUMP STREET
5. THE AVENGERS RETURNS

STA. MESA

1. THE AVENGERS Digital 3D
2. THE AVENGERS RETURNS
3. AMERICAN PIE: REUNION
4. DARK SHADOWS
5. THE AVENGERS
6. 21 JUMP STREET

IMUS

1. AMERICAN PIE: REUNION
2. THE AVENGERS RETURNS
3. DARK SHADOWS
4. THE AVENGERS Digital 3D
5. 21 JUMP STREET
6. THE AVENGERS

TACLOBAN

1. [illegible]
2. AMERICAN PIE: REUNION
3. THE AVENGERS RETURNS
4. DARK SHADOWS in Digital 3D
5. THE AVENGERS

ILOCOS NORTE

1. DARK SHADOWS in Digital 3D
2. AMERICAN PIE: REUNION / THE AVENGERS
3. THE AVENGERS RETURNS

DUMAGUETE

1. DARK SHADOWS in Digital 3D
2. THE AVENGERS / AMERICAN PIE: REUNION
3. THE AVENGERS RETURNS

BACOLOD

1. THE AVENGERS Digital 3D
2. RESERVOIR
3. 21 JUMP STREET
4. DARK SHADOWS
5. THE AVENGERS RETURNS
6. THE AVENGERS

ILOILO

1. THE AVENGERS Digital 3D
2. 21 JUMP STREET
3. DARK SHADOWS
4. THE AVENGERS
5. THE AVENGERS RETURNS
6. [illegible]

GENSAN

1. DARK SHADOWS in Digital 3D
2. AMERICAN PIE: REUNION
3. THE AVENGERS RETURNS
4. THE AVENGERS

ANGELES

1. DARK SHADOWS
2. 21 JUMP STREET
3. THE AVENGERS RETURNS
4. THE AVENGERS

PAMPANGA/NAN

1. THE AVENGERS RETURNS
2. AMERICAN PIE: REUNION
3. DARK SHADOWS in Digital 3D
4. THE AVENGERS

Obama to honor Bacharach, David

From page E1

"more recognizable and richer," multigenerational playlists," said Lil Jonathan of Gorgeous James Hillingdon.

Past recipients of the Gershwin Prize have included Stevie Wonder, Neil Simon and Paul McCartney.

Bacharach said the honor may top his Grammys and academy awards since it recognizes his life's work, rather than just a single project.

David, 84, is recovering from a stroke and will not be able to attend.

"It was something that he looked forward to," Bacharach said. "I feel very lucky about that ..."

Bacharach said he was influenced by a lifetime of experiences. He learned to play piano by phone listening to Beethoven, the altar would sneak into Manhattan nightclubs with a fake ID to hear jazz greats Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk and Charlie Parker play.

Most of his work ing with David was fertilized by exploring the minimal side of music. David would usually write the lyrics first and then pass them to Bacharach to score to ensure he create they had to help tell a story, often for film or stage.

They produced film scores for "Butch," "A House is not a Home" and "Casino Casanday and the bacharach" among others and the musical "Promises, Promises," which won a Grammy and was revived on Broadway in 2010.

Others they went writing songs for the female voice. ...AP

Last words

NEW YORK... Johnny Hammer, guitarist for seminal rock band the Ramones, pioneered a fast, no-nonsense sound that made him one of the most influential guitarists of all time.

"Commander-the autobiography of Johnny Ramone," released nearly eight years after Hammer, born John Cummings, died of prostate cancer at age 65, reads like a Ramones song: short and to the point, but with plenty of colorful bursts of energy and energy.

The book, recently published by Abrams Image, was written from a series of interviews Ramone gave to the final years of his life for the purposes of a memoir.

"He wanted to have his last words because he knew he was dying and he was always kind of a misunderstood character," Ramone's wife, Linda Cummings Ramone, said in an interview.

Linda enlisted author and honorary Black Flag singer Henry Rollins, as well as her stepson, John Cadiero, to put together the 176-page book, which is peppered with photos and collected memorabilia.

The result is a raw telling of Ramone's life story, from a blue-collar New York upbringing playing baseball and roughing up neighborhood kids, to early the movers gigs with Blondie and The Talking Heads at punk-rock hotspot venue CBGBs.

It also details fights and the ongoing tensions that took place within the band, and his more than 20-year romance with Linda, who soon married his friend and bandmate Joey Ramone.

Reuters

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 DARK SHADOWS (G) 1:00, 4:10, 6:40, 9:15

2 AMERICAN: PIE REUNION (R) 1:15, 4:10

DARK SHADOWS (PG-13) 9:15, 9:50

3 THE AVENGERS (PG-13) 1:30, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30

4 21 JUMP STREET (R-13) 2:30, 4:20, 6:30, 8:20

THE GOLD LIGHT OF DAY (R-13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

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Shangri-La Plaza

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THE GOLD LIGHT OF DAY - PG13 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	DARK SHADOWS - PG13 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10	21 JUMP STREET - R16 12:50, 3:00, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
THE AVENGERS - PG13 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 9:55	CABIN IN THE WOODS/AMERICAN PIE REUNION - R13/R18 1:10, 3:20/3:45, 6:00, 10:20	DARK SHADOWS (in 3D) - PG13 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 8:50

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OPENS MAY 23

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MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: THE GOLD LIGHT OF DAY 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 AM
2: 21 JUMP STREET 12:00, 2:00, 4:10, 6:20, 8:30, 10:40 AM
3: THE AVENGERS (3D) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 AM
4: CABIN IN THE WOODS/THE AVENGERS 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 PM
5: AMERICAN PIE: THE REUNION 12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40 PM
6: DARK SHADOWS 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 PM
7: MOMMY RETURNS 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40 PM

GREENBELT 5

1: MOMMY RETURNS 12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 8:40, 10:50 PM
2: DARK SHADOWS 11:40, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20 PM

GREENHILLS 5

1: DARK SHADOWS 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:10 PM
2: THE AVENGERS (3D) 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10 PM
3: AMERICAN PIE: THE REUNION 3:20, 5:30, 8:15, 10:45 PM
4: 21 JUMPSTREET 1:40, 4:10, 6:30, 8:45, 11:10 PM
5: COLD LIGHT OF DAY 2:00, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00, 11:00 PM

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: DARK SHADOWS 12:00, 2:00, 3:30, 4:30, 7:00, 10:00 AM
2: THE AVENGERS (3D) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 AM
3: 21 JUMPSTREET 1:00, 3:10, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00 AM
4: COLD LIGHT OF DAY 2:00, 4:30, 6:40, 8:40 AM
5: AMERICAN PIE: THE REUNION 12:00, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30 AM

AYALA CENTER CEBU

1: THE AVENGERS 2:30, 3:30, 7:00, 9:30 AM
2: COLD LIGHT OF DAY 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:00, 9:30 AM
3: DARK SHADOWS 12:00, 2:00, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30 AM
4: MOMMY RETURNS 1:00, 3:10, 5:10, 7:00, 9:20 AM

MARQUEE

1: THE AVENGERS 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 AM
2: DARK SHADOWS 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 AM
3: MOMMY RETURNS 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 AM
4: 21 JUMPSTREET 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 AM

MARKET MARKET

1: DARK SHADOWS 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00 AM
2: AMERICAN PIE: THE REUNION 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00 AM
3: COLD LIGHT OF DAY 12:00, 1:00, 4:40, 6:40, 9:00 AM
4: THE AVENGERS (3D) 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 AM
5: 21 JUMPSTREET 11:40, 2:00, 4:40, 7:00, 9:00 AM
6: MOMMY RETURNS 12:00, 2:00, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00 AM
7: THE AVENGERS 12:00, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 AM

TRINOMA

1: MOMMY RETURNS 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 10:00 AM
2: COLD LIGHT OF DAY 1:40, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 AM
3: THE AVENGERS (3D) 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 AM
4: CABIN IN THE WOODS/THE AVENGERS (3) 10:40, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 10:00 AM
5: 21 JUMPSTREET 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10 AM
6: AMERICAN PIE: THE REUNION 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 AM
7: DARK SHADOWS 12:00, 3:00, 5:00, 8:00, 10:00 AM

ABREEZA

1: DARK SHADOWS 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30 AM
2: COLD LIGHT OF DAY 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 6:50, 8:50 AM
3: MOMMY RETURNS 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 7:10, 9:10 AM
4: THE AVENGERS 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 AM

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THE RAVEN

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DID YOU KNOW...

Hotel thieves rob Iglesias of cash, iPads

CARACAS—Venezuelan authorities say thieves stole cash and other items from the hotel room of Spanish singer Julio Iglesias while he was performing in a concert. The Miranda Prosecutor General's Office says the 68-year-old artist and his employers returned to their rooms after the concert in the city of Valencia and found that $3,000 in cash was missing, as well as items including three iPads and a suitcase containing video concerts, a computer and personal documents. AP

Full circle with...

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wrong, Chad realized that he really had been given a second chance.

Things came full circle when, out of the blue, Nicha sent an e-mail saying he was flying to Manila for a visit. Chad was overjoyed. He knew this was a sign that he should proceed with his plan.

"In a way we felt that we didn't finish it," Nyoka said, referring to Chad's Show Me the Way" album. "It was sort of hanging."

Like Chad, Nyoka believed fate intervened and they should now seize the opportunity.

For starters, they worked on five songs that would be released as an EP. One of those tracks, a ballad called "Show Lang sa Isyu (Isang Buhay)" (written by Jimmy Bondoc), will serve as the first single to mark Chad's return to the scene.

More mature

Parikta had the track recorded in Los Angeles, with a team of renowned session musicians including guitarist Ramon Stagnaro (who last worked with the likes of Celine Dion and Michael Bublé), percussionist Walter Rodriguez (who's played with Herb Alpert, Bobbie Robertson, Alex Acuña), and bassist Reni Castaño (who's had stints with Celia Cruz, Tito Puente, Linda Ronstadt, Richie Lee Jones).

As for the other songs, Chad said he outlined the sentiments of Nihona Antonio, Jay Durias and Winston Querido—all accomplished songwriters-producers.

The day after the interview, Parikta supervised Chad's recording of some vocal parts at Pink Noise studio in Quezon City.

"Chad sounds so much better now, more mature," quipped Nyoka.

Asked how he stays fit, Chad said, "Bedtime at 9 p.m., wake up at 6 a.m., jogging ... I avoid stress. I think I get sick from too much stress."

While preparing for his album's release, Chad is likewise gearing up for a one-night gig on May 25 at 75 East in Salcedar, Parañaque. He will perform with an eight-piece band.

Teleserye soundtrack No. 1 for 5th week

JUAN Lisa No. 5 OPM

TOP-SELLING albums in the country for the week April 30-May 6, based on Odyssey Music & Video's nationwide sales reports:

Overall

1) Various Artists, "Walang Hanggan (Repackaged)," Star Records; 2) Jay Park, "Stay Bored," MCA Music; 3) One Direction, "Up All Night," Sony Music; 4) Angeline Quinto, "Still in Love Again," Star Records; 5) Various Artists, "By Popular Demand 5," Universal Records; 6) Whitney Houston, "The Essential Whitney Houston," Sony; 7) Adele, "Live at the Royal Albert Hall," Warner; 8) Various Artists, "Best of Praise & Worship Music," Ivory Music; 9) Various Artists, "The Greatest Hits Ever, Vol. 2," MCA Music

OPM

1) Various Artists, "Walang Hanggan (Repackaged)," Star; 2) Angeline Quinto, "Still in Love Again," Star Records; 3) Rivermaya, "Trip," Viva Records; 4) Willie Revillame, "Synapse," Viva Records; 5) Xian Lim, "Go It's You," Star; 6) Various Artists, "Today's Revolve Lovesongs Unplugged, Vol. 7," Ivory; 7) Angeline Quinto, "Tuesday Jazz Passenger," Star; 8) Rarekisses, "Rarecircles," Universal; 9) Gerald Archbishop, "Rarecircles," Ivory; 10) Willie Revillame, "Breaking Boundary," Viva

odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPPH — BY JESS ARBOLEDA

PUGAD BABOY — BY PHIL LUGOD

DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE MOTS — BY ELIZABETH HONGALO

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

RIKO MACHINE — BY FRANK ARBOLEDA

SEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK — BY MARA COLL

HOROSCOPE

ELIZABETH ECHOVEZ
YOU BORN TODAY You are extremely charismatic. A lifestyle where you can be imaginative makes you happy. People are inevitably your charm, and they admire your creative expression. Whether it's writing or artwork or software, you will always have an amazing fantasy life. Many of you find yourself in careers that put you in the limelight. Your one caveat will be to avoid taking because you are going to [illegible] sensitive people.
Birthdate: Jill David (Actor), actress-singer Tom Tancredi, actor Javier Cunningham Jones

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Your luck continues to be strong in money and entertainment. Beware those of you who are in love with someone who is a regular at the local bar/restaurant/coffee shop/etc.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): The continuous to be a strong period for you. Money is coming in, and you're in the mood to spend it. Make the most of this, because the goods are with it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Work alone or behind the scenes. Your birthday is coming/approaching, so this is the perfect time to figure out what you want your new year to be all about.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Ideas and inspiration abound for both romance and entertainment. Know where your heart is this month and when you find it, don't let it get away.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): What's in the past stays in the past. Ignore the hurt or high horse stuff. And remember, lighting is happening on you, you'll be at least somewhat responsible.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Look more aggressively for romance and pursue [illegible]. If you don't do this, time [illegible] is your enemy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Put time to reduce your stress. Your [illegible] is no [illegible] thoughts to [illegible], shared property, inheritance and business matters.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It's important to get more rest than the [illegible] is at the beginning of the month. It gets all over, and the rest is your source of energy. Plan for more sleep.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Purchase lots of organizational tools to get better organized this week. In fact, some of your best [illegible] [illegible] you [illegible] your life and make [illegible] more.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a natural time for your help, as is a wonderful one. Any extra quality, romantic, [illegible] and helpful time with children.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're starting to enjoy your [illegible]. Relationship problems, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Vilma: Nora and I are too old for intrigues

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

IT WAS such a delight to chat with rapport actress and Batangas governor Vilma Santos on her office. She's ever so warm and accommodating. Had she seen Nora Aunor since Ate Guy's homecoming? "Unfortunately not," Ate V said.

"But if a good offer came along, I'd be more than willing to work with her," she added.

Was she sure that her movie, "The Healing," might be pitted against Nora's "Thy Womb"?

"The competition will always be there," Ate V quipped. "It's good for both of us. Pero please, 'wag sila sa Sunod (at Iginiko ni Onyx We're too old for that."

But she's mighty proud of "The Healing," which also stars Kim Chiu. "Whoon lang ako nakapagsuot ng maxie dahil sa schedule. As in governor," she explained. "Sa indie ne drama eh, horror naman."

Amid her frenzied schedule, Ate V makes time for motherhood. "Even if Luis and Lucy and I are both busy we check up on each other daily," she said. "Kahit si Jessebyn (Luis' girlfriend) opens ang communication namin. I like her for Luis, for of course it's up to him to decide if she's the one. [My wife ni Luis] Ryan is also showing interest to show her, but I'm discouraging him until he finishes his studies. He looks up to his Papa.

Ate V also revealed that her two sons have no inclination to go into politics, just like she did. "But I told them that right now, leg is important."

Was she soon fulfilled as an actress or as a public servant? "More than half of my life, I have been in show biz. I'm now serving sina, bitsoke ako dito," she a Vilma Santos," she pointed me. Two hindi pwedeng pare pangalan. So show biz, big screen yan. I get to entertain my audience. As a public servant, multifold yan. Walang take two."

The time for All Seasons will celebrate her golden years is close for this November is the one she's going. She V still has so much to give and share. The lab- old dames keeps a certain newsreel burning in her craft.

Nat on a date

Soon Vicki Belo and Hayden Kho were spotted having dinner at The Ivot recently, does that mean they have reconciled?

"They were not on a date," my source clarifies. "They were with 10 other people for a meeting about the opening party of the Belo branch on High Street. "Hayden is renewing his show biz career and his cologne line, which is selling well and has partnered with Eve Hilvia. Vicki attended the US premiere of 'The Road' alone."

Vicki and Hayden may not be back in each other's arms, but they will never be out of each other's lives; the memories linger and the friendship stays.

Award from Sally Quizon

I bumped into Sally Quizon at Pantry Room in Home Depot one Saturday. She said she sees her dad Dolphy (who finally calls her Salsal) daily.

"Si Dad naghire nga sa isang nanay na ang alaga sa pamp na siya, sabihin na lang daw namin na wala na siya," she said. "Nakakatuwa ang mga nang-aalaga kapag nakakakita ng mahirap na tao."

The Dolphy is still in high spirits, as there's no way he would turn into a spirit anytime soon.

Birthday concert

Sarah Geronimo is gearing up for her birthday show, dubbed "Liv SG," on July 7 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum. She wants to show her fans something they've never seen her do. She has filled up the Big Dome and is saving us seats herself when she turns a year bolder!

E-mail: watchingbehanger@yahoo.com.

Because people turned up in the thousands last April,
PLDT is bringing back another Great Payday Sale on May 11-13!

The Great Payday Sale booths were all over Luzon, Visayas & Mindanao.

All Mall — Puregold Commonwealth — Nova Taytay Public Market — Centropolis Mall Bacolod — Cimarron Super Center Cagayan

The Great Payday Sale was at its biggest last April with booths set up not just in Manila, but even as far as Baguio, Iloilo, Cebu, and Davao! It was similarly big in attendance as people came out in droves to take advantage of great Internet deals the Great Payday Sale is known for.

The April 27-29 leg featured Internet star Derek S. Lorenzo, who made the rounds in Great Payday Sale booths in locations like All Mall, Puregold North Commonwealth, and Nova Plaza to help spread the word about the coolest deals PLDT myDSL had to offer in time for the summer.

Through Great Payday Sale, you can surely get quick and reliable Internet connections in a variety of plans to suit your lifestyle! With no cash out needed and just 1 valid ID, you can be on your way towards enjoying the strongest connection powered nationwide while also getting in on savings of up to P5000 with perks like a FREE WiFi Modem, FREE Installation, and FREE 1-Month Subscription thrown into the mix.

Check out www.pldtmydsl.com for information on the Great Payday Sale set for May 11-13.

This is your last chance to avail yourself of these offers this summer! Great Payday Sale is extended for 3 days only!